

The Ryedale Historian

HELMESLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

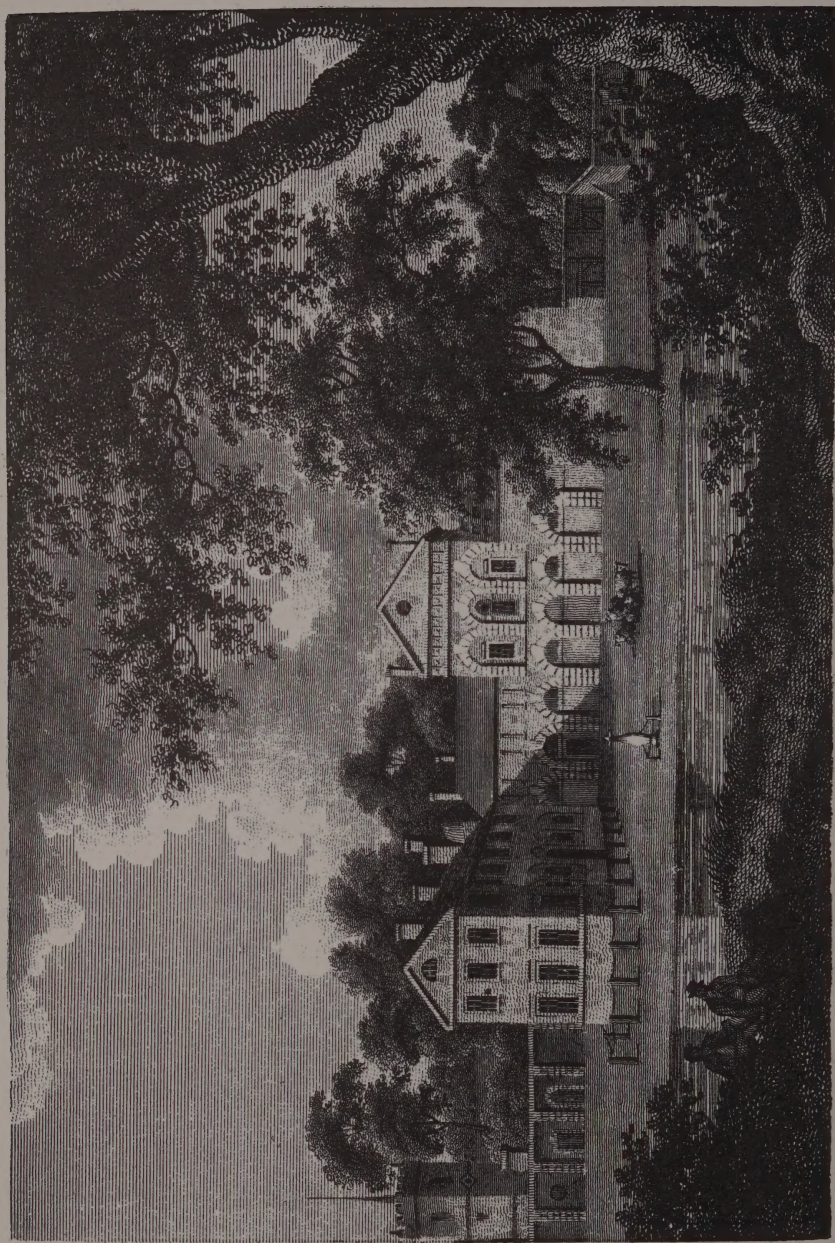


MOSAIC PAVEMENT, BEADLAM ROMAN VILLA

Number Three

£3.00

April 1967



HOVINGHAM HALL (Post - 1800)

The Ryedale Historian

A
Periodical Publication
by the
Helmsley and District Group
of the
Yorkshire Archaeological Society

Number Three April 1967

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Editorial

The unearthing of a Roman villa under old pasture sandwiched between a main road and a railway line – a remarkable survival – must eclipse all other archaeological events in Ryedale over the past year. The credit for its discovery is due to one of our members, Tony Pacitto. He took the photograph which forms our cover, and one of his assistants contributes a brief description of the site and the initial excavation carried out under his direction in the autumn of 1966. It is an archaeological find of sufficient importance to justify the Ministry of Public Building and Works taking over responsibility for the site. This is a very welcome development; not least, from our point of view, because it affords our members the chance to see, and to take part in, a professionally directed dig on a very interesting site. Indeed, nobody in Ryedale need remain in ignorance of the progress of the excavation, which could hardly be in a more accessible spot – possibly even too accessible from the excavators' point of view; visitors with dogs or small children are urged to restrain them from too enthusiastic an approach to the actual trenches when digging resumes.

On the debit side of the past year must be recorded the obliteration of the southern end of the Double Dykes on Ampleforth Moor in the course of agricultural clearance, together with the tumuli which dotted that section of moor; a rescue dig was carried out, however, on these latter before levelling.

The need for economy (see notice to readers below) prevents our welcoming all the other contributions to this issue. But we must slip in a brief word of thanks to Mr. Herbert Wilson, for allowing us to print his notes on the tenure of John Wilson as master of Helmsley and York workhouses a century ago.

All in all, we hope, and are reasonably sure, that our readers will find as much interest in No.3 as in preceding issues. And though there may be a slightly longer interval than usual before No.4 appears, appear it will.

JOHN McDONNELL

Notice to readers:

Ryedale Historian No.4 will NOT appear in Spring 1968.

Owing to the shoe-string nature of the Group's finances and the fact that, to keep the price of No.2 within reasonable bounds, copies of that issue were actually sold to the trade at a loss, we must give ourselves time to build up funds. We have every hope, however, that publication will be resumed by 1969.

Information Please:

John Rushton (2 Springfield View, Pickering) will be grateful for any information that readers can furnish concerning the 19th Century Chapel in Helmsley variously described as of the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion, Calvinist, Independent and (if it is the same one) Particular or Baptist. (The Calvinist Chapel in High Street is referred to briefly in the History of Helmsley... pp.239, 242-3, but few details are known. Ed.)

Hovingham Hall

by Marcus Worsley, J.P., M.P., F.S.A.

(A Lecture delivered on 16 June 1965 to the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, and on 6 May 1966 at Helmsley Castle.)

The County of Yorkshire has within its boundaries almost every variation of landscape, but no corner of it is a better place to live in than that part of the North Riding which lies to the south and west of the Vale of Pickering, some twenty miles north of York. A land of great houses, woods and gentle hills, with more distant glimpses of the Moors and the Wolds, and the flat Vales of Pickering and York. It once consisted almost entirely of considerable estates: Castle Howard, Gilling Castle, Newburgh Priory with the huge Duncombe Park estate away to the north.

Amongst them lies Hovingham, since Elizabethan times the home of the Worsley family.

As Camden put it,¹ "Hovingham though flat in its own situation, has a delightful hilly country round it and a rivulet of excellent water runs through the village and gardens." In 1745 when an ornamental canal was being dug, there was found the remains of a Roman villa, with pavement, bath and coins, one of the most northerly Roman villas marked on the ordnance survey map of Roman Britain.

The Worsley family came to Hovingham in 1563, when the father-in-law of the current Worsley acquired it from the Berkeleys who had inherited it as coheirs of the vast Mowbray estates.² The Worsleys came originally from Worsley near Manchester³ and the early Worsleys of Hovingham, who were recusants, may well have come over to escape the Puritan zeal of the rest of their family, one of whom was Keeper of the Fleet Prison in Manchester.

We do not know for certain the site of the original Worsley mansion in Hovingham, but it was certainly adjoining or within the village, as the present Hall still is.⁴ It is a pleasant village of local limestone and red pantiles. A charter of Henry III granted a market, which in 1739⁵ was ordered to "be revived, renewed and kept upon Thursday weekly and every week". Certainly in early days Hovingham's population was much greater than its present 400.

The Church was rebuilt, very well, in 1860 except for the very fine pre-Conquest tower, which was reroofed and restored in 1964. Inside the Church as well as a number of Worsley tombs are an eighth century stone reredos and cross.

In the early nineteenth century, an attempt was made by the Worsley of the day to exploit the spring waters about a mile from the village, and the railway station until it was finally closed only in 1964 always bore the proud name of 'Hovingham Spa.' The attempt was not much of a success in spite of some spirited public relations.⁶ "The valuable Medical Properties of this spring," reads the advertisement, "Manifested in numerous well authenticated cases, the convenient locality of the Town of Hovingham, the healthiness of the situation, the beauty of the Scenery, its vicinity to the unrivalled ruins of Rievaulx Abbey, and other celebrated remains of Gothic Architecture, and to the splendid Mansions of Castle Howard, Duncombe Park, etc., must, it is presumed, render a visit to this Spa as agreeable as it will be found salubrious." The Spa left Hovingham with a fine hotel, not surprisingly called the 'Worsley

Arms' and several houses in a pleasant Georgian vernacular which give the village much of its character.

When Arthur Young visited Hovingham in 1769⁷ he wrote: "At Hovingham Mr. Worsley has a new built house, which is viewed by strangers. The approach is through a very large stone gateway, upon which is the following inscription: VIRTUS IN ACTIONE CONSISTIT and as the building looks pretty much like the gable end of a large house, I mistook it at first (with that inscription) for a hospital. The entrance is directly out of the street for coaches"

But, before following Arthur Young in, we ought perhaps to consider for a moment the man who built the house and the reason he built it the way he did.

Thomas Worsley was the sixth of his name. The six Thomases followed six Roberts and preceded six Williams with only an intervening Edward. The Worsleys like to stick to a good thing when they get on to it. But it does not help the subsequent historian, when it comes to distinguishing one from the other.

Thomas, the 'Builder,' was born in 1710 and was the third generation to sit in Parliament.⁸ He sat for Orford from 1761-1768 and for Callington from 1768-1774. There is no record of his ever having spoken during his 13 years in Parliament. "You know how much I value him," wrote Sir Lewis Namier, "as a member who took no interest in politics - admirable man."

Though Thomas may have taken no interest in politics, he certainly had a lively and well-stocked mind. He travelled extensively on the Continent in his twenties and mastered several foreign languages, in addition to Latin and Greek. He collected a considerable library which is still at Hovingham, the books full of notes in various languages in his own scrawling hand. He left too a number of notebooks filled with an extraordinary miscellany of topics:

"The theory of windmills
"How to make watercolour
"Hydraulic Law of Fluids
"A good broth for a sick person
"A good purge"

and odd little snippets of economic information, for instance, that 1,000 watches are made every week in London, of which 700 go abroad.

Thomas was certainly a 'character,' though a somewhat elusive one. Astonishingly, there is no portrait of his at Hovingham, though one is known to exist and to have been sold in London since the last war. Perhaps it will one day turn up again. No doubt too, it will be possible to find out more about him from his letters of which there are many which I have not seen, or from Board of Works papers.

But nothing which may be discovered, is likely to portray more of the man than the house which he built, for it combines in an unusual manner the two passions of his life: horses and architecture. Horace Walpole rather offensively called him "a creature of Lord Bute and a kind of riding master to the King"⁹ and elsewhere and more agreeably, "a rider of the great horse and architect."¹⁰

The letters at Hovingham are full of talk about horses. Amongst them are several to his life-long friends, Bute and Harcourt, both very close to the young George III.¹¹

From 1746-60 he was an Equerry to the King (George II) and in 1760 he was one of the two men for whom Bute and the new King insisted that places should be found in Parliament¹² - his seat was the Treasury Borough of Orford. In addition, he was made Surveyor-General of the Board of Works, a post he held until he died in 1778.

Now to the problem which he inherited when his father died in 1750. Years later he himself described it thus in a letter written to his son on the fly leaf of his account book, "the advise of an affectionate dying father."

"As I persuade myself you will live so prudently as to delight in often seeing your accounts, I chuse to place here some advice, flowing from a warm heart.... My Father left me many thousands in debt, and a Mother-in-law who lived several years.... I was obliged to build, the old House decaying fast, hot in summer, cold in winter, and ever very noisy.... If you live here at Hovingham you will abound, if you neglect it, you will soon be involved."

Nothing is known about the old house except from that letter and the plan made in 1760, though Thomas' grandfather, who died in 1715 and who married an heiress, much improving the family fortunes, recorded in January 1683 that he had spent £1198 on building and £335 on furniture. The plan certainly suggests a house built by the grandfather rather than a house built earlier still. Thomas' father is reputed to have laid out the elaborate formal canals and gardens, the work which exposed the Roman villa. These works are laid out with the old house at the focal point. The canals are now drained and a cricket ground has long taken their place, but many evidences remain of the original plantings of yew and lime.

Thomas was very much his own architect. Indeed he was the only Surveyor-General since Wren to show any interest whatever in architecture. Hovingham Hall was his life work, the fruit of years of thought and care, a true labour of love. It is this which gives it its particular quality and makes it such an agreeable family home. William Danby of Swinton, later to be Trustee of his Will, made the point in 1768 even before the house was finished when he wrote comparing it to his own building activities: "Yours is a much greater work, and being more a Creature of Yr. own will give you more pleasure when finished and dressed..."

There are some 130 architectural drawings in Thomas' own hand still at Hovingham and as many more in other hands which he collected.¹³ From them it is possible to see some of the many ideas which he played with and something of the way his mind developed. It seems likely that he started with the idea of a stable block only, attached to the old house and that his ideas grew, as ideas will, until the house reached its present form. But as we shall see, the stables remained at the heart of the whole design, and one cannot escape the feeling that accommodation for people remained second in his order of priorities. In any event, the old house was left standing with a connecting passage long after the new house had been completed, in as far as it ever was completed.

For, to the relief of succeeding generations, Thomas never completed his original design; the South Wing was never built. As Thomas inscribed on the garden front, "Pro Viribus non Pro Votis erexit." "He built according to his means, not his wishes."¹⁴

But the time has come to follow Arthur Young from the Village Green

into the House:¹⁵

"The entrance is directly out of the street for coaches, through a narrow passage into a large riding house, then through the anti-space of two stables, and so up to the house door. Nothing should be condemned because uncommon, but I should apprehend with some horses, that it might hazard the necks of many a coachful, if the ladies persisted in not walking this approach."

So the main entrance to the house is through the stables and in particular through what is now called the Riding School, a truly enormous building, measuring 96 x 35 feet. It is an arrangement which might have appealed to George Bernard Shaw.

"Go anywhere in England," he makes Lady Utterwood say in 'Heartbreak House,' "where there are natural, wholesome, contented, and really nice English people: and what do you always find? That the stables are the real centre of the household."

Thomas of course used the Riding School to exercise his horses and train them in the exacting art of haute école, while the ladies watched from the gallery above. It was the enthusiasm of a lifetime. In Vienna when on the Grand Tour he bought a copy, still at Hovingham, of Newcastle's classic work on Dressage. There are many letters and drawings at Hovingham about the design of Riding Schools. As late as 1772 Jonathan Rose, when sending a bill for plasterers' work done at Hovingham that year, enclosed dimensions of the Riding School at Nostell, where he was staying.

The Riding School now has a hard surface and provides a most useful place for motor cars. But it has a hundred other uses: fêtes (when wet), produce shows, religious services. It is the home of the Hovingham Festival, of which there have so far been two series, one from 1886 - 1906, the second from 1951 - 1959.

The Samson Hall is so called because of the Giovanni da Bologna marble statue of 'Samson Killing the Philistine,' now in the Victoria and Albert, which stood there until the 1950s. The statue had a strange history before spending a quiet couple of centuries at Hovingham. It was given to Charles I when as Prince of Wales he made his famous trip to Spain to woo the Infanta. Charles gave it to Buckingham who placed it in the garden of his palace in the Strand. From there it was moved to Buckingham House and when George III acquired the latter, he gave 'Samson' to Thomas Worsley.

Originally, as Arthur Young described, the visitor drove through the Samson Hall and out into the open air again before entering the house through a door, now closed, into the present Drawing Room. For this purpose the floor is paved with hexagonal oak cobbles resting on sand.

The visitor is now compelled to walk - Arthur Young would have appreciated that - and the Samson Hall has become in effect the front hall of the house, furnished principally with plaster casts of classical statues, some at least of which were sent back from Italy by Thomas' eldest son, also naturally called Thomas, before his premature death in 1774.

Thomas, the 'Builder', suffered terribly from 'the stone' in his later years, and that combined with his son's death brought him into the depths of despair. "I suffer cruelly and almost constantly," he wrote to Sir William Chambers from Hovingham in July 1774,¹⁶ "and this place now in its highest beauty affords me no consolation, it only soothes my affliction by renewing ideas of my lost happiness.... I am quite miserable with my late calamity and shocking disorder together,

they must end my wretched life soon. I have wished it these five years, now stronger than ever. The bribe to life is gone, health and my eldest son, who I saw all virtue and goodness." Thomas died in fact over four years later.

The Tapestry Hall was, then, originally a stable. Thomas had only some twenty paces to walk from his bedroom or dining room to see his favourite horses. It was an arrangement which Arthur Young felt might have been a little inconvenient in hot weather. Succeeding generations seem to have agreed, and when the horses were moved further away the previous half-light windows were replaced with present full-length ones some time in the nineteenth century. The table is worth a mention, obviously earlier than the present house, made out of two huge slabs of elm. The two groups of Egyptian statuary date from 2400 - 2300 B.C.¹⁷ and were also gifts from George III.

It is, I think, in these halls, or stables that Thomas most completely expressed the Palladian tradition in which he built. I remember the extraordinary impact when visiting Vicenza of a similar hall at the Palazzo Thiene - the same shock of familiarity which I still always feel nearer at home from the facade of Kent's Horse Guards.

We now enter that part of the house which Thomas designed for mere people.

The present Drawing Room was described by Arthur Young as the 'Hall'. He entered the house by a door at the S.W. corner of the room, now replaced by a window, which then served as the main entrance to the house. This room was originally decorated¹⁸ with a series of grisaille paintings, one by Sebastiano Ricci, four by Andrea Courlandaio, three attributed to a mysterious Bamboccio, the set made up at a later date by two further paintings by Cipriani.

The Doric Room, now used as a study, has many of the best pictures in the house. Thomas was certainly a connoisseur. In the year that he died he made a complete and invaluable room-by-room catalogue of the pictures. It has proved very accurate in the light of modern criticism.

The collection was made with considerable taste, but it was not made by Thomas Worsley. Most of the collection, as Thomas makes clear in the letter in his account book from which I have already quoted, was left him by a friend, Edmund Charles Blomberg, together with a considerable amount of property.

The book cases in the Library were made in 1832¹⁹. It was certainly not used as a Library by Thomas and I am not sure where he did keep his books. But he certainly collected the library, though little documentary evidence remains. It covers a really remarkable range, in the languages represented and the subjects. It contains among other things, an early printed Sarum Breviary by Pynson and a first edition of Pope's Essay on Man. Also typically, a 1562 edition of Blundeville's "new booke containing the arte of ryding and breakinge greate Horses". The Library is now the main living room of the house.

The passage which leads on the north side of the house to the Dining Room contained originally a closet attached to the main bedroom and a staircase down to the cellars. It is now used as a small cocktail bar and provides an admirable setting for the recently acquired collection of early English water colours.

The present dining room was originally the main bedroom. In recent years family portraits have been hung in here. Each principal room at Hovingham is designed to conform with one of the orders of architecture. Here the order is Corinthian. We have already seen the 'Doric' Room²⁰ and there is also a smaller 'Ionic' sitting room upstairs.

We know something but not much of the craftsmen who worked at Hovingham. I have already mentioned a plasterers' bill from Jonathan Rose. In 1771, £57 was paid to John Devall Junior for an Ionic Column Chimney Piece. Thomas Atkinson of York 'set up a chimney piece.' In 1771, £23 was paid to Messrs. Kelsey and West for an account which included eight windows of mahogany and "preparing Corinthian caps to Columns and Pilasters". In addition the names appear of Jelfe the Mason, Abbott the Painter, Cobbett the Glazier and Lawrence the Carver in Wood.

The main staircase leads primarily to the main Reception rooms on the first floor. On its domed ceiling is a version by Casali of Guido Reni's Aurora. The clock is by John Ellicott. It plays a choice of one of twelve popular tunes of the day after striking the hour. The choice includes 'A March in Scipio', 'The Great World's a Trouble', 'Mr. Handel's Minuet'.

The Ballroom is immediately above the Samson Hall. Here the huge "Sacrifice to Apollo" by Sebastiano Ricci, formerly in the Drawing Room, now hangs above the harpsichord discovered a few years ago in an attic which turns out to be a Charles Haward of 1683,²¹ and the earliest playable English harpsichord.

The stone out of which Hovingham is built came from a quarry about a mile away on the Estate at Potikar Bank. It has a golden cast to it and varies remarkably in tone in wet or dry weather. It is a soft limestone and has weathered most beautifully.

Thomas built well. He built to last. He also built extraordinarily slowly. As early as 1752 Bute wrote to him: "You are enjoying life as I should wish to do, with building, gardening, workmen, these are the rational pleasures. These will remain with us, when age deprives us of most others and money spent in this manner becomes a real legacy to posterity." His summarised accounts start in 1754 and they show quite clearly that he was building steadily during the whole period from then to 1773, spending an average of £324 a year, a total of over £6,000. As early as 1757 he bought two marble chimney pieces and a vase; Deval's receipt for a further marble chimney piece dates from as late as 1771. Jonathan Rose's 'plaisterers' account dates from 1772.

It seems an extraordinarily long period, but Thomas was not a rich man, he was his own architect, he probably changed his ideas as he went along. Yet the style, typically for an amateur, remained the style of his younger days. Few would guess just how late Hovingham Hall was completed. Thomas built the central block first, then the North Wing, then the Riding School, finally the remainder of the stables,²² which like the house were not completed to the original plan. Indeed, almost up to his death some work seems to have been going on. His agent at Hovingham, Schoolcroft, wrote in April 1775, "The Stairs are ready for the Plaisterers, and Laths and Stuffs made up also."

But the house seems to have been substantially completed shortly before Young visited it in 1769. Young calls it a 'new Built' house and all the main rooms were clearly finished and furnished. Work was perhaps going on in the stables or elsewhere that he did not see.

Yet only the previous November, in 1768, William Danby had written in the letter already quoted, "I long to know the Progress made this summer in the Works at Hovingham, Which I hope Health and Spirits have given you leave to attend to. I wish to hear it has been confined to what was wanting to make the

house habitable and commodious to you an Mrs.Worsley.... My own experience of the enjoyment of my place since the Removal of the Workmen and Rubbish from the Inside and Parts immediately contiguous to it makes me the more desirous of the same for you."

One can only hope that Thomas had some pleasure from actually living in his 'new built' house. Succeeding generations have certainly done so, and the house and its contents have changed little since he died. Some discreet Victorian additions, tucked well away to the back, have made it more convenient, the attics and cellars are no longer occupied. It remains a family home and a lasting monument to Thomas Worsley, "a rider of the great horse, and architect."

Notes

- 1 Camden's 'Britannia', edited and enlarged Gough 1806, Vol.III, p.328.
- 2 Victoria History, North Riding, Vol.1, p.505, et seq.
- 3 Victoria History, Lancashire Vol.IV 1911, p.376 et seq.
- 4 The Manor Farm in Hovingham is certainly an old structure and may possibly have been an old Manor House. Considerable garden walls still exist in the area behind it.
- 5 Charter granted to Hovingham by King Henry the Third and renewed in the Reign of King George the Second in the Year 1739.
- 6 From a poster with engraving of the hotel printed by C.R.Todd & Son, Herald Office, Scarborough, about 1840.
- 7 Arthur Young: "A Six Month's Tour through the North of England."
- 8 Biographical note supplied by Sir Lewis Namier, preparatory for the 'History of Parliament', now at Hovingham.
- 9 Walpole: "Memoirs of George II." Vol.1, p.416.
- 10 Walpole op cit. p.37.
- 11 He sold horses at various times to all three of them and his correspondents clearly regarded him as a very considerable authority in the subject.
- 12 Namier, "England in the Age of the American Revolution", p.176 and note.
- 13 A few with no connection with Hovingham were deposited at the R.I.B.A.
- 14 I do not know whether Thomas ever built another house, but again his friends certainly regarded him as an authority on the subject of architecture.
- 15 Arthur Young op cit.
- 16 Letter to Sir W. Chambers in the British Museum.
- 17 Restored 1964 - see 1778 Catalogue.
- 18 1778 Catalogue.
- 19 A contemporary note to this effect is framed in the Library.

- 20 There is among T. Worsley's Architectural Drawings at Hovingham a study of the Dorick order done at Eton.
- 21 Found by G.O.W. and W.M.J.W. in 1951 in an attic. Considerable repairs were needed but the sound-box was in good repair.
- 22 This can be deduced by comparing the various plans.

General: Other references and quotations are taken from letters and accounts at Hovingham.

A Roman Villa on the North Side of the Vale of Pickering

by Philippa M. Franklin

Until the discovery of the villa at Beadlam in the spring of 1966 there were no true Roman buildings known on the north side of the Vale. Wade's Causeway and Cawthorne Camps were military works, and the camps were merely marching camps, and never garrisoned on a full-time basis.

The Beadlam site is on the east bank of the Riccal, and just south of the A 170 Helmsley - Pickering road (ref. SE 634841). The buildings are visible as mounds 2 - 3 feet high in the field, but as this field was until recently permanent pasture no surface finds had been made, and the significance of the mounds, if not their presence, went unrecognized.

Some three seasons ago ploughing began, but it was not until March 1966, when A.L. Pacitto of Helmsley noticed dark soil and stones being turned up, that a closer inspection was made. This instantly revealed many fragments of Roman pottery, several bronze coins, parts of three querns (stone handmills for grinding corn), and building materials including such a mass of stone that the farmer, Mr. W. Rooke of Beadlam Grange, was able to build a wall about 150' long and 3'6" high from what he picked up on the surface.

At this stage enough evidence was available to indicate that the buildings must have been nothing less than a Roman Villa, a rather surprising find in an area previously supposed to be barren of Roman occupation.

A villa can be defined as a Roman-style farm operating above subsistence level, and its presence suggests peace and a degree of economic prosperity in the region. Native Britons may have owned the majority of villas, and would receive active encouragement and help from the Roman authorities whose food supplies would be derived chiefly from these sources. It seems likely that the produce from Beadlam villa, as well as from those at Hovingham and Oulston, would go to market at Malton and perhaps York.

Beadlam was probably an arable farm, although as yet we have no evidence of this (in the form of corn-drying kilns etc.). Also the Romans were really the founders of the wool trade in Britain, and woollen cloth and garments were exported, so it is possible that sheep were kept as well.

In September 1966 the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works arranged for a rescue excavation under the direction of Mr. Pacitto before further ploughing could take place. The purpose of this dig was to find the extent and state of preservation of the site.

The buildings that were uncovered were datable in the main to the 4th century A.D., and probably represent the last of a succession of rebuilding, progressing from timber to stone. They formed three blocks, enclosing an open rectangular courtyard facing south, and measuring about 200' east to west. The walls were of roughly-squared limestone, with quoins of neatly dressed freestone. The west block seems to have been roofed with tile, and the northern one with stone slabs. This latter was the house, and it is possible that the former was the bath block. The interiors of both had painted wall plaster, probably with rather heavy and formal designs which would not appeal to modern tastes. A mosaic pavement was found in the house only about 9" below the present surface. This is at a higher level than most of the floors because it is built over a hypocaust (a hollow underfloor space or duct to carry hot air from a furnace to heat the room). The pavement had subsided into this hypocaust in places, but the greater part of it was still intact, and the geometric (Greek key) design in red, white, blue and brown was hardly spoilt. On the whole this pavement showed good workmanship.

Some of the flue tiles by which the warm air was conducted up through the walls were found complete and in situ around this room. Outside the east wall of the building a heap of unused tesserae (small cubes from which a pavement is composed) were found, among them chippings and unfinished cubes.

The bath house forms a prominent feature in later Romano-British villas. It would include hot, tepid and cold rooms on the Turkish principle as well as hot and cold plunge-baths. At Beadlam the remains of hypocausts were found in the west wing, and these may have belonged to a bath suite. Water could have been obtained from the Riccal or from a well.

In general the villa was found to be well preserved, there had been some stone-robbing from the walls in places, but mainly they stood 4-7 courses high. Both inside and outside the buildings there was an abundance of rubble from the walls - quite enough to account for a single-storied structure with stone walls up to the eaves.

The pottery was mostly 4th century A.D., and 15 coins were found that dated from 150 to 390 A.D.

It is fortunate for us that there are nearby sources of building stone so that the stone-robbing was not extensive, and also that the villa had not been attacked by earlier archaeologists who would have employed techniques not approved of today.

The excavation of a Romano-British Farmstead at Spaunton

by Arthur H. Whitaker

INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of four seasons' work (1963 - 1966) on a site at Spaunton, in the parish of Lastingham (Grid Reference SE 721893). The site is located in a field adjoining Spaunton Lane. The land is owned by Mr. Geoffrey Wardle Darley and farmed by Mr. Thomas H. Strickland of Manor House Farm, Spaunton, to whom at the outset I would like to express my warmest thanks, not only for his permission to dig, but for his unfailing practical support throughout the period of the excavation.

The features of the site before excavation began were two roughly parallel banks of earth each some 50 feet long and 30 feet apart, running from E to W and lying in the south-west corner of a field known as the Old Pasture. This field does not appear to have been ploughed within living memory, but in the adjacent fields sherds of Romano-British pottery have been frequently unearthed by the plough as well as flint implements of a more ancient period.

In the early spring of 1961, an exploratory trench 3 feet wide was dug across the two banks and the area between them by a party of excavators led by Mr. R. H. Hayes, M.B.E., of Hutton-le-Hole. Sufficient evidence of occupation was found to warrant a more thorough investigation, and the writer took this task upon himself, beginning at Easter, 1963. In that and succeeding years an area of over a thousand square feet embracing both banks has been completely excavated, and a few trial trenches have also been dug in the adjacent area but these have revealed nothing of archaeological significance.

THE STRUCTURE of the SITE (See Fig. 1)

Structurally the site proved unrewarding. That some sort of building had stood there was evidenced chiefly by two rows of post-holes, and that it belonged to the Roman period by the types of pottery and other artifacts which were found. There was no stratification, the natural rock - oolitic limestone - being reached at an average depth of 20 inches below the present ground level. It appears that this natural surface was used by the inhabitants as the floor of their dwelling, though there were small areas where they had pummelled clay into the cracks and hollows to make a smoother surface. No attempt had been made to counteract a natural slope in the land from west to east and the floor dipped accordingly.

The main post-holes (nos. 1 to 8 in Plan) were well made and averaged 10" in diameter and 18" deep. Clearly they had taken substantial timbers, and with the exception of No. 5 were undamaged to floor level. There was no sign of burning either in them or round them, nor were there any traces of charred wood in the holes. This would suggest that the posts had been carefully removed at some period. P-H. No. 2 was filled with pig bones, and a rim sherd of red Samian pottery was found at the bottom of No. 7, but otherwise the post-holes contained nothing but loose stones and earth. The post-holes measured 6'6" between centres and the two rows stood 12' apart.

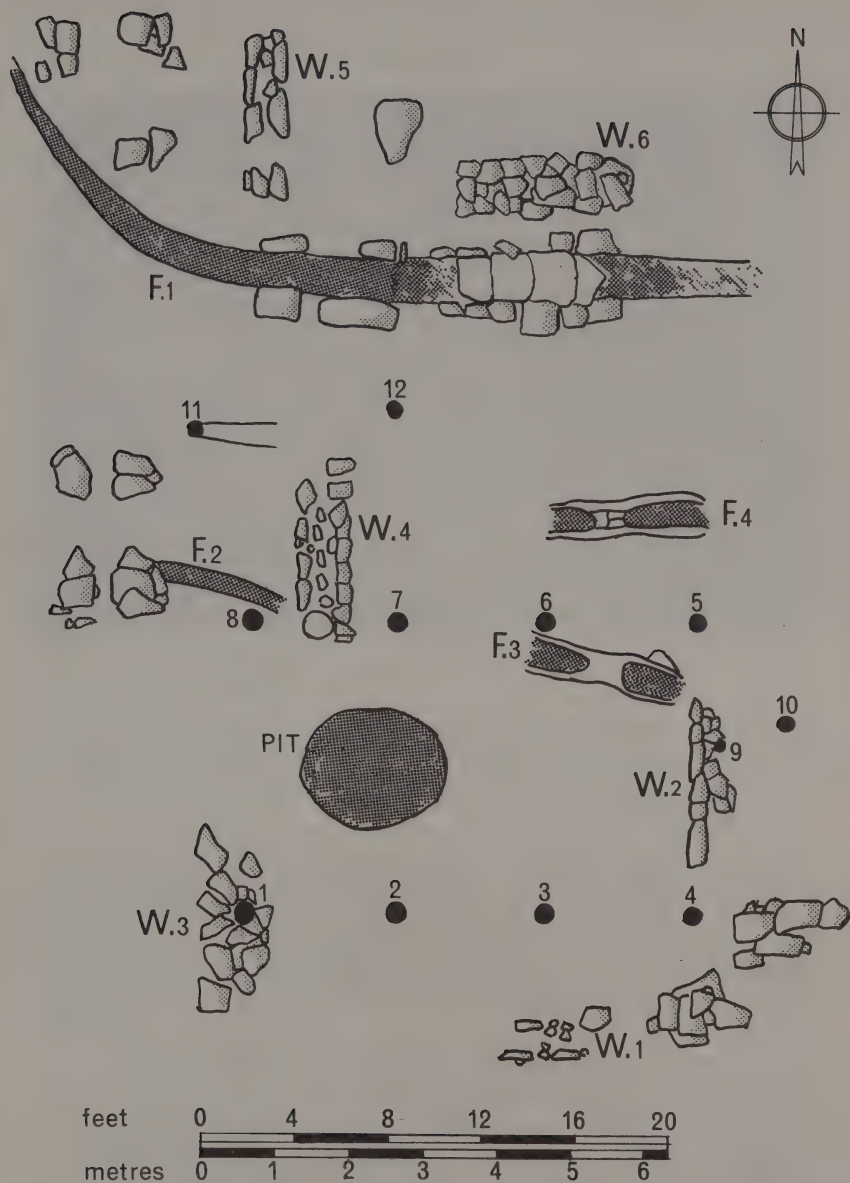


FIG.1
PLAN of SITE

ROMANO-BRITISH FARMSTEAD, SPAUNTON, YORKS.



Plate 1

photo by R.H.Hayes

Area to east of Wall 2 showing Post-hole 10 and quern stones in situ. It was on this floor that the coin of Allectus, the bronze bracelet and the decorated spindle-whorl were found. Underneath the floor was the large filled-in pit described in the text.

Whether the posts which once occupied these post-holes were free-standing, or whether they were supported above ground level by walls it would be hazardous to say. As the dig proceeded, traces of walls - no more than one course of irregular limestone slabs for the most part - were found, but they were unrelated and make a reconstruction of their original length virtually impossible. (See Plan, W.1,2,3, 4,5 and 6). Though the whole area was littered with small limestone slabs, no trace of roofing tiles of any kind was found, and it would seem almost certain therefore that the building was thatched.

In the area marked off by the main post-holes, about mid-way between P-H's 2 and 7 was a large, carefully made, oval pit 5'6" long and 4'8" wide. This pit was filled to its depth of 20" with peat ash, and the sides and bottom were heavily burned. Nothing else was found in the pit, whose purpose therefore is not certain. There was no opening in the sides, so it does not appear to have served as a stoke-hole; and its depth, combined with the total lack of bone or pottery remains, makes it seem doubtful as a domestic hearth.

It was in the area between the two rows of main post-holes, however, that the greatest quantity of pottery was found (see Report on Pottery below) as well as several large and heavy lumps of slag. A spectroscopic analysis conducted by the Dept. of Geology of Leeds University showed it to be composed of iron with lesser

quantities of calcium and silica. The fairly large quantity of iron remaining in the slag suggests that the inhabitants of the site were not very skilled metallurgists. Animal bones were plentifully scattered over this same area.

Lying in the triangle formed by P-H's 2 and 3 and the edge of the pit was the lower stone of a flat rotary quern, 15" in diameter, firmly embedded in the floor and clearly in its original position. It was quite unbroken, and standing in its central hole was the remains of the iron spindle round which the upper stone revolved. Some six feet away, near Wall 2, lay such an upper stone, complete but broken into three pieces. It seems very probable that the two stones belonged to the same quern. They were made of coarse sandstone as were all the other fragments of quern excavated on the site.

The area to the east of Wall 2 also produced a flat rotary quern. Here again the bottom stone was securely wedged into the floor and the top stone lay about four feet away. Both stones were badly cracked, the bottom one having the appearance of having been deliberately smashed (Plate 1). Two post-holes were located in this part of the dig, one, (No.9) 6" diam., being incorporated into Wall 2, and the other (No.10), 8" diam., being surrounded at floor level by limestone slabs fitted closely and carefully together to form a pavement roughly 3 feet square. It is difficult to relate P-H 10 to any structure, but P-H 9 was almost in line with post-holes 5 and 4, and this gives some substance to the supposition that Wall 2 may be the remains of the eastern wall of the building whose main supports occupied post-holes 1 to 8. Three interesting finds on the floor near P-H 10 were a bronze coin of Allectus, a neat bronze bracelet $2\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter and a rather unusual spindle-whorl. (For a description of these see Miscellaneous Finds, below.)

There was nothing to suggest that the floor of this area was in any way different from that of the rest of the site, i.e. the natural limestone, so the decision to dig it up must be regarded as a minor inspiration. In fact, once the cobbled floor had been removed, the excavators found themselves clearing out the rubble and debris of a pit whose ultimate extent proved to be 10 feet long and 4ft.6in. wide. Wall 2 had been built almost across the middle of the length of this pit. Amongst the debris were several fragments of bee-hive querns, a saddle quern, a heavily burnt loom weight, part of a large bone awl, an iron implement of the kind known as a 'spud' and, at the very bottom of the pit, in soft wet mud, a large piece of antler which has been identified as elk. (See Report on Bones and Miscellaneous Finds; also Fig.4). No pottery, charcoal or other signs of burning were found, and no attempt had been made to square the sides of the pit such as had been done in the smaller pit mentioned above; it was simply a big hole hacked out of the natural rock.

So far this report has been concerned with the southern half of the site whose excavation occupied the first two seasons' digging. The northern half was characterised by a number of flues (F 1 to 4 on the Plan), or remains of flues, for whose purpose there was very little evidence. Flue 1 was easily the longest and most substantial. It ran for a distance of some 30 feet from west to east, curving towards the north at its eastern end and finally petering out into a faintly burnt patch on the floor of the building. For the greater part of its length the flue was 18" wide, but from the point where it curved northward it tapered rather sharply to about 6". Up to this point the walls of the flue were constructed of a single course of large, heavy stones, one of them 4 feet long and 18" by 18" in section. Small, irregularly-

shaped limestone slabs, heavily burnt, formed the base of the flue, and throughout its length, resting on these slabs, was a layer of up to 2" thickness of peat ash mixed with fragments of wood charcoal. At its western end, however, the flue had been filled to the level of its walls with a white, mortar-like substance which had set to the hardness of concrete. Farther to the east this filling remained only in lumps still adhering to the sides of the walls. No pottery or artifacts were found in the flue, but one or two fragments of heavily calcined bone were excavated.

Flues 2, 3 and 4 had no walls remaining and there was no evidence to suggest that walls had ever been there. They were shallow troughs about 1 foot in width, their bases constructed, as in Flue 1, of small limestone slabs overlaid with a layer of peat ash. Their sides rose 3" to 4" above the floor level and were formed of an agglomeration of stones, sand and mortar which had fused to a rock-like hardness and which retained the fierce red colour of intense burning. Flues 3 and 4 were roughly H-shaped, the channel of the flue having been deliberately obstructed by two or three limestone slabs which were cemented into the flue sides. The vestigial remains of what appears to have been a flue ran into P-H 11. Again nothing but peat ash and charcoal was found in these flues, though the rim of a large jar in hard grey ware was found under Flue 2 adjacent to P-H 8.

The remains of three walls were excavated in this northern half of the site. Wall 4 was quite a substantial structure and ran in a northerly direction for about 8 feet. It had a width of 3 feet and was constructed of fairly large limestone boulders on its exterior surfaces with smaller stones loosely packed between. Its southern end terminated in a large conical hole 2 feet in diameter at the top, in which a roughly square boulder stood on its edge leaning against the wall end. Wall 5 consisted merely of one course of flat limestone slabs. It also ran N to S but did not line up with Wall 4 from which it was separated by Flue 1. Wall 6 was a more solid construction running parallel to and almost linked with the western part of Flue 1. None of the walls contained any squared or dressed stones and there was no evidence that mortar had been used in their construction.

The only other structural remains in this part of the site were the lower courses of what appear to have been pillars of some kind. There were two groups of these 'pillars', one, of four pediments lying just to the east of Flue 2; and another, of three pediments, to the east of Wall 5. (It is possible that the fourth pediment of this group was removed when Flue 1 was constructed or extended.) Both these groups are in line N to S. The 'pillars' bore some resemblance to the hypocaust pillars found on Roman villa sites, but there was absolutely nothing else to connect them with this system of heating.

INTERPRETATION

A. DATING

As usual on a site of this kind the pottery gives the clearest and most reliable evidence for the date of its occupation, and makes a 4th century A.D. dating almost certain. (See Report on Pottery). The single Samian sherd dating from the early 3rd century is too meagre as evidence for an earlier occupation, though it must be admitted that some of the sherds of calcite-gritted ware (not illustrated) were very reminiscent of Iron Age pottery.

The querns are also unreliable for exact dating purposes since all types have a long history of use from Iron Age to Saxon times at least. The one coin of the usurper Allectus (293-297 A.D.) fits in fairly well with the evidence of the pottery so far as the date of the site is concerned.

B. NATURE of SITE

Whilst, as we have shown, the structural remains revealed by the excavation were meagre and puzzling, most of the evidence points to the conclusion that the site was a farmstead, its occupants being a family of native Britons in touch with such Roman culture as was to be found, for example, at the nearby fort of Malton.

The eight main post-holes described above are clear evidence of a building; but whether one regards them as representing the size of this building in themselves, or whether they formed the supports of what is usually referred to as an 'aisled' house, it is difficult to see how a dwelling bigger than 24 feet by 20 feet can be envisaged. From the quantity of bones and pottery found in this area, the presence of the quern in situ and the location of the ash-filled pit (whatever its purpose), the conclusion must be reached that this building was the farmhouse - the centre of the family life of this little community. The spindle whorls and the loom weight show that spinning and weaving were carried on, and the presence of iron slag in fairly large quantities suggests that the iron tools or implements necessary to the work of the community were made on the spot.

The flues present a problem. Their alignment relative to the post-holes and the walls suggests that they were constructed at a later period than those features. A quantity of charcoal from a sealed layer at the bottom of Flue 3 might, if subjected to radio-carbon testing, give valuable evidence for the date of the flues, but it has not been possible to get this done. The chief difficulty in deciding what was their purpose is that, in the state in which they emerged from the excavators' trowels, they seemed neither to originate anywhere nor to lead anywhere definite. There were no stoke-holes, ash-pits or vestiges of kilns connected with them. Patches of the floor adjacent to the flues were heavily burned, suggesting that ashes from the flue had been raked out and left there to cool and be trodden underfoot. From negative evidence it seems most unlikely that the flues were associated with either pottery or tile production. The most plausible theory would therefore seem to be that they were concerned with corn-drying. Support for this idea may be found on pp.126-7 of the late Sir Ian Richmond's "Roman Britain" (Vol.1 of the Pelican History of England), from which the following extracts are taken.

"It has often been stated in the past that some (farmhouses) were furnished with rude hypocaustsBut the alleged hypocausts do not occur in huts and are in fact corn-drying ovensThe plan of these kilns and their flues varies considerably, now bowl-shaped, now T-shaped, now H-shaped..... But the principle of construction was always the same, to create a fire whose hot gases passed through flues and heated gently a floor never itself in direct contact with the flame."

C. CONCLUSION

When due allowance has been made for the heavy destruction which the site has suffered, the picture nevertheless emerges of an essentially lowly way of life. After three centuries of Roman rule, despite its brilliant achievements in many fields of human endeavour, there must have been scattered over the country at large, and perhaps particularly in the north, small communities such as that which lived at Spaunton, whose daily life varied little if at all from that of their early Celtic ancestors. One other fact is also proved which hitherto has only been surmise - that the Tabular Hills were occupied by farmers in Roman times.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to place on record his gratitude to the following people who have helped him with the excavation:-

R.H.Hayes, Ian Gliddon, Geoffrey and Anne Burton, S.Hattan,
Don Jackson and his family, Patrick and Nan Kinder, R.Close,
and Richard Whitaker.

REPORT ON THE POTTERY

Pottery sherds were numerous but, with very few exceptions, they were so badly fragmented and worn that it was impossible to reconstruct anything like a complete vessel. Rims were fairly abundant, bases less so, but here again very little of the body of the vessel was left attached to the rim or base. For this reason, attempts to indicate the shape of the body and the height of the vessel have been restricted to one or two examples where the size of the sherd made this possible. Nevertheless, it is almost certain, taking into account the rim forms and the decorations on a number of the body sherds, that the bulk of the pottery came from the kilns at Norton or Crambeck and, with one or two exceptions, is uniformly of 4th century A.D. date.

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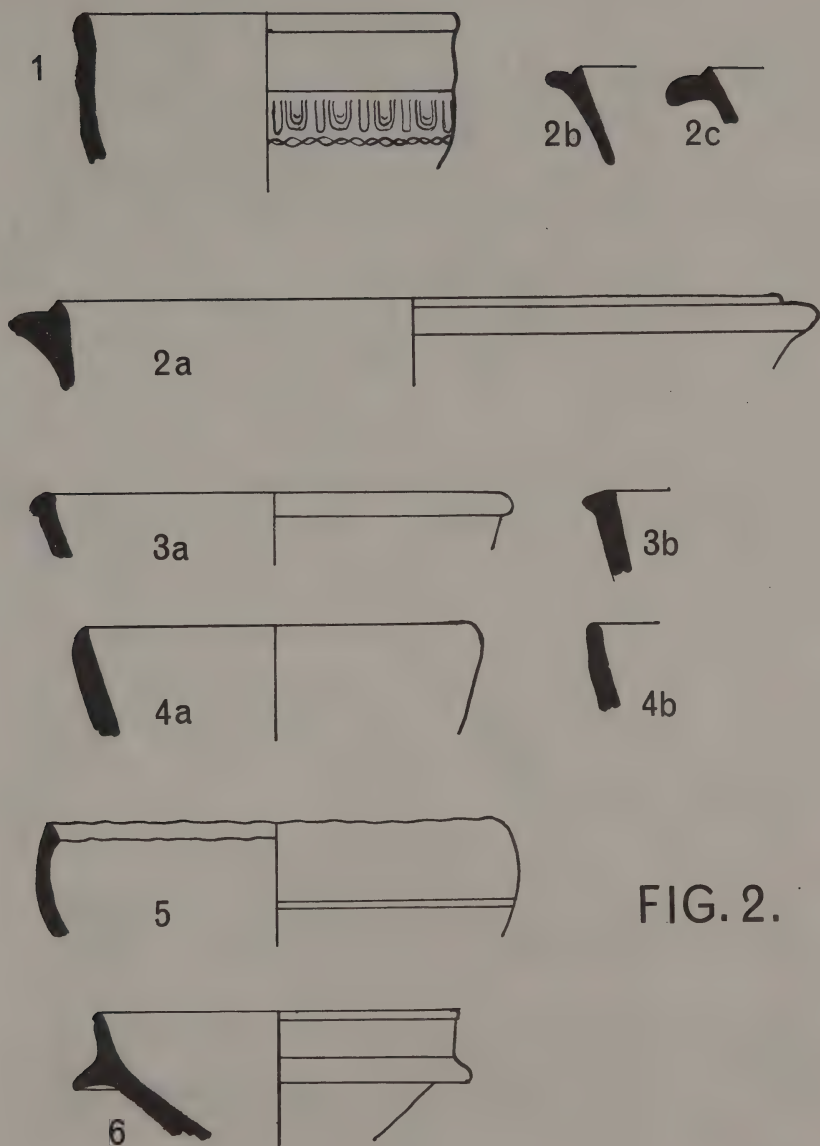


FIG. 2.

Romano-British Pottery from Spaunton site.

SCALE: One Third.

FIGURE 2. Samian Ware

1. Hemispherical bowl, Dragendorff's Form 37 - diam. 6" - single cable line below ovolo - excellent glaze.
(A tiny fragment of another rim of a vessel 4" diam. in Samian ware was also found but it was too small to identify. It was flat, with a 0.1" chamfer on the outside edge.)
Coarse Pottery - Dishes and Bowls
- 2a, 2b & 2c. Rims of straight-sided flanged dishes - average diam. 11", in coarse, hard grey ware. R.M. 1, Pl. 1, 5 and 14. Pl. 11, 46.
- 3a. Straight-sided bowl or pie-dish - hard grey ware - roll rim - 7" diam.
R.M. 7, Fig. 10, 2a.
- 3b. As 3a but with triangular rim - 8" diam.
R.M. 7, Fig. 10, 2b.
- 4a and 4b. Straight-sided lipless bowls - 6" diam. - rounded rim - hard grey ware.
R.M. 7, Fig. 13, 1d and 1e.
R.S. Pl. II, 5.
5. Shallow dish - 7" diam. - slightly incurved lip - calcite gritted pottery - very hard.
No exact parallel found, but cf. R.B. Fig. 12, 72.
6. Hemispherical bowl - $5\frac{3}{4}$ " diam. - external groove just below rim - hard grey ware - burnished.
R.M. 1, Pl. I, 21.

FIGURE 3

7. Bowl - 7" diam. - hard grey ware - unburnished.
R.M. 1, Pl. II, 32.
- Jars.
- 8a. Small jar or beaker - 4" diam. - hard grey ware - very fine texture - rim burnished.
R.B. Fig. 12, 67.
- 8b. As 8a - 4" diam. - grey ware; core blue-grey, outside sandy colour - coarser than 8a.
- 9a. Large jar - hard grey ware - inside of rim and body burnished - pronounced shoulder where body joins rim - rim diam. $5\frac{1}{2}$ ".
R.M. 7, Fig. 13, 4d.
- 9b & 9c. Large jars - hard grey ware - unburnished.
R.M. 7, Fig. 13, 4a.
R.M. 1, Pl. IV, 81.
- 9d. Base of large jar in hard grey ware.

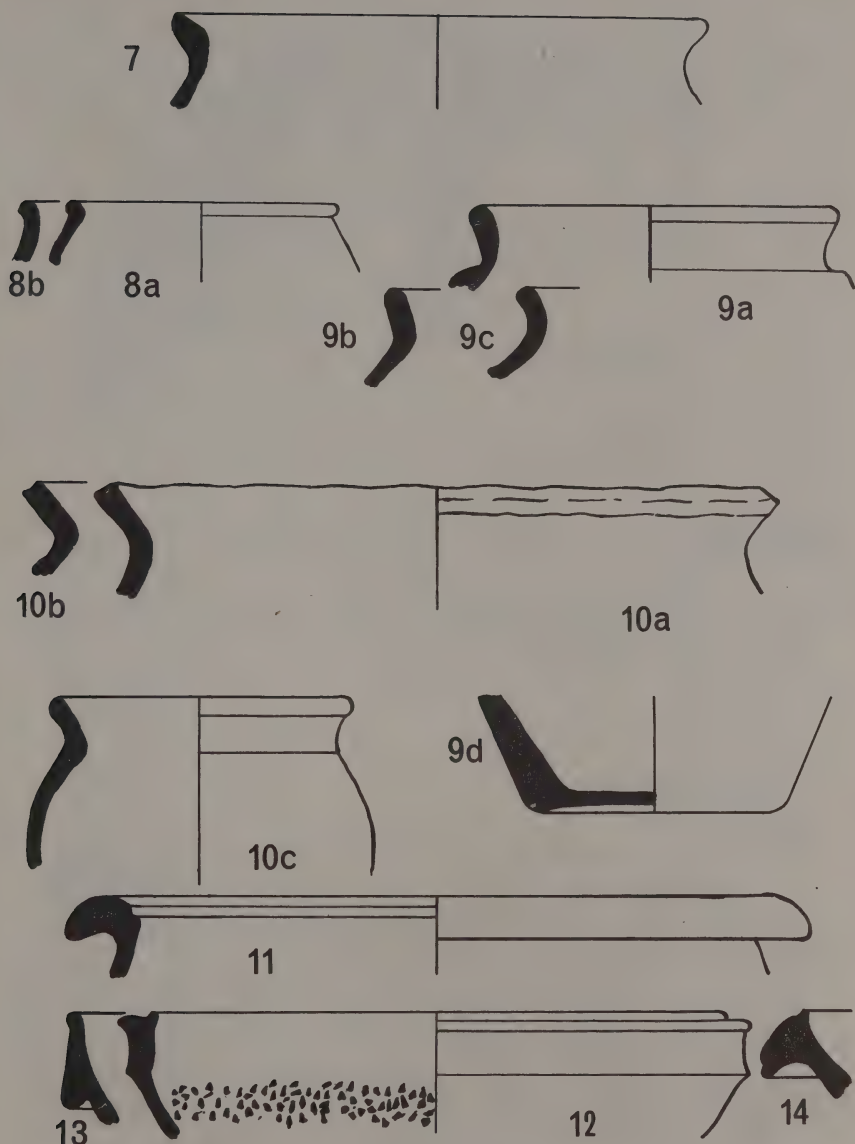


FIG. 3.

Romano-British Pottery from Spaunton site.

SCALE: One Third.

- 10a & 10b. Large, hand-made jars in calcite-gritted ware - 10" diam. - very hard - typical Knapton type pottery. No. 10a has distinct finger-end impressions immediately under rim, and inside of rim is heavily pitted. No. 10b has clearly-marked groove in centre of rim edge.

R.M.7, Fig. 11, 8a.

- 10c. Small jar in calcite-gritted ware - wheel-turned - diam. $4\frac{1}{2}$ " at rim - grit fine and hard.

R.S. Pl. II, 7.

11. Large cooking pot - $10\frac{1}{2}$ " diam. - in typical calcite-gritted Huntcliff ware.

R.S. Pl. II, 8.

Mortaria

12. Hard, cream-coloured ware - fine smooth paste - grit small and black - diam. 9".

R.M. 1, Pl. V, 137.

13. Hard, light-grey ware - part of rim only found.

R.M. 1; Pl. V, 126.

14. Part of rim only - buff-coloured ware - fairly coarse, sandy texture; interesting because it is an earlier type than rest of coarse pottery.

G. 267.

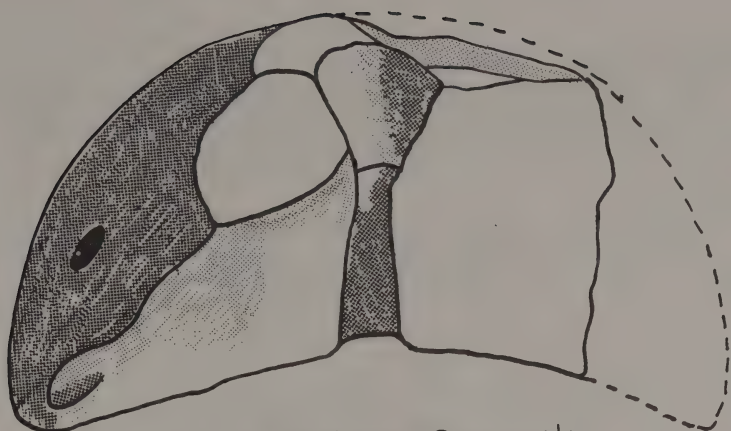
MISCELLANEOUS FINDS

Querns

In addition to the two complete querns which were found in situ, as related above, several other parts of querns were found. Most of them were sections of the top stones of the flat rotary type and varied in diameter from 15" to 20" with the exception of one quadrant excavated just to the N of Wall 6 which had a radius of 15". The half of a bee-hive quern illustrated in Fig. 4 No. 1 showed a great deal of wear, having been worn concave to a depth of 1" in the centre of its lower surface. It was made of sandstone like the rest of the querns but it was yellow in colour whereas the others were ash-grey. Two halves of a lower quern - stone found in quite separate parts of the dig bore a convex upper surface which exactly matched the lower surface of this bee-hive quern. The saddle quern referred to on page 15 was 15" long and $3\frac{3}{4}$ " thick; its existing width was 8" but a piece was broken off so that it was probably 10" wide originally.

Coin

The one bronze coin found on the site has been identified by Miss E. Pirie M.A.F.S.A. (Scot.), Keeper of Archaeology at Leeds City Museum, as belonging to the short reign of the usurper Allectus (293-296 A.D.).



1. Part of Beehive Quern ($\frac{1}{4}$)



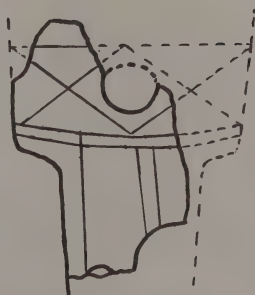
2. Iron Spud ($\frac{1}{2}$)



3. Spindle Whorl ($\frac{1}{4}$)



4. Bone Implement ($\frac{1}{4}$)



5. Piece of a decorated Bone Handle ($\frac{1}{4}$)

FIG.4.

Miscellaneous Finds from Spaunton site.

Iron Spud (Fig.4 No.2)

This implement, probably used for hoeing, is 6" long and has a shallow, spoon-like working end with a conical socket at the other. The metal, though corroded, is quite thick, and the implement weighs one pound.

Spindle Whorl

This is an interesting find since obvious care has been taken to decorate the whorl with concentric grooves round the exterior and a series of double-V marks on the top. It is made of chalk which suggests an E.Riding origin. It cannot have had much use, since the hole is still almost perfectly cylindrical and the chalk is so soft that even delicate handling of the whorl wears some of it away.

Bone Implements (Fig.4 Nos.4 and 5)

Several fragments of bone bore suspicious evidence of having been shaped for a definite purpose, but they were too small for that purpose to be identified. The small piece of bone shown in Fig.4 No.5, however, bears quite clearly-incised decorative markings, and a semi-circular hole of $\frac{1}{4}$ " diameter which it seems fairly certain held a rivet or peg. Possibly it was the handle of a knife. It was found on the top of the filling of post-hole 11. Fig.4 No.4 illustrates a piece of antler used most probably as an awl. It still retains on its end some of the polish acquired from the palm of the hand that guided it.

Bronze Bracelet

This is a simple circle of bronze, $2\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter and $\frac{1}{16}$ " x $\frac{1}{32}$ " in section. It is complete save for half an inch which was corroded and broke away when the bracelet was lifted. The rim is decorated with very fine V notches filed alternately on each edge and carefully spaced $\frac{1}{16}$ " apart.

Loom Weight

Measuring $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x 3", with its edges rounded, the loom weight is made of hard-baked clay, and is pierced by a hole $\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter whose centre is $1\frac{3}{4}$ " from the top of the weight. The hole is slightly elongated indicating where the warps of the loom have rubbed against its top edge.

Other Small Finds

Three or four pieces of flint were found. None of them appears to be an implement, and they were all probably used as strike-a-lights. Several broken pieces of polished stone were also excavated. One or two resembled whetstones for sharpening sickles; others may have been used for burnishing.

REPORT ON THE ANIMAL BONES

The author is most grateful to Mr. D. Bramwell, honorary Director of Excavations to the Peakland Archaeological Society, for undertaking the identification of the animal bones from the site. Ox, horse, sheep (or goat), pig, dog, red-deer, elk, water-vole and hare were all represented and there was a solitary tibia from a bird, probably a magpie. I append verbatim Mr. Bramwell's notes: I wish it were possible also to reproduce the beautiful handwriting in which they are written.

1. Ox Two animals are represented, perhaps a cow and a bull, but both belong to the small breed well-known from Neolithic to Roman times. The longer limb bones have been split to obtain the marrow and one bone is partly calcined. One metatarsal bears a resemblance to a scoop.
2. Sheep
(or Goat) A mandible and metatarsal, belonging to two individuals, of a small, slender-legged breed such as is commonly found on British pre-historic sites.
3. Pig There are quite a number of bones of an immature, but almost full-grown, pig. The animal has small tusk sockets and is probably a domestic sow. The mandible shows a familiar feature, namely the lower border cut away, probably to obtain some especially succulent fat around the teeth roots.
4. Horse A small phalanx (foot bone) and 3 teeth indicate the usual pony-sized animal.
5. Dog A weathered lower jaw fragment indicates a small/medium breed.
6. Elk I feel fairly certain that the heavy antler piece is from an elk. I have compared it with many figures of red deer and elk antlers and reject the idea of its being the topmost or 'cup' portion of a red deer antler. Literature shows that elk antler has turned up twice, to my knowledge, in Romano-British sites, but I think the animal would be rare and on the way to extinction. The fact that this specimen was in a pit may indicate an earlier date. I have examined the small pits on the antler surface and conclude that the piece was set up for target practice, and that the marks are where it was struck by arrow points, probably of flint, but I think it would need experiment to prove this. The short beam of the antler is missing, sawn or cut off, which is interesting in view of the use of that portion at Star Carr for the manufacture of mattock heads. There are three other cut portions where tines have been removed, possibly for use as awls or similar tools.

The objects found during the excavation are now on display in the Archaeology Room of the Ryedale Folk Museum at Hutton-le-Hole.

Byland Abbey . . .

The Builders and their Marks

by Peter Svendgaard

INTRODUCTION

Byland Abbey, although now sadly ruined, has remains which are still quite extensive and worthy of examination.

The Church itself, when originally built in the late 12th and early 13th centuries, was reputed to be the largest of the Cistercian order in England. To the visitor, the layout of the Abbey is apparent, as remains of most monastic buildings are present. One cannot fail to realise the tremendous amount of work involved in its construction. A great number of workpeople were obviously employed in the building of it.

THE BUILDERS

The Lay Brothers' Range was the first construction, built prior to the monastery's foundation in 1177, and because of the crude form of its architecture it can be assumed that its building was undertaken by the Conversi, or Lay Brothers.

Although it is generally believed that such monasteries were the actual work of the monks themselves, this was not so. The Abbot would normally employ lay workers for this purpose. The work would certainly be ascribed to him by virtue of his office, as was the custom in those times. The Abbot would specify the size and type of architecture desired, but had little or nothing to do with the actual setting out and construction. He administered the building funds, and placed the accounts in the charge of the Sacrist or a clerk.

A Working Architect or Master Mason was carefully chosen by competition. He was responsible for all aspects of design and construction, management of the work, and only he could engage the masons and other workpeople. He would appoint an assistant.

There were various grades of masons employed by the Master Mason. The highest skilled grade were the freemasons, who with chisel and mallet performed the more intricate work, using the fine grained freestones for the tracery, carving, moulding of the arches, and capitals. Other grades included rough masons, wallers, layers, paviours and scapplers. The latter generally worked in the quarries shaping the stones. In addition carpenters were also employed in the making of templates for the masons. Diggers and carters would be recruited locally.

It should be realised that, generally speaking, masons were by the very nature of their occupation nomadic in their habits, having to travel from place to place to perform their craft. They were members of guilds but were not as strictly organised as were other craftsmen of a more stationary nature. Nevertheless, similar rules of apprenticeship applied to the masons. On admission to the lodges they were given their own mark and instructed in secret signs and passwords by which they were recognised as genuine by their brother masons.

It was not uncommon to find Continental masons employed in this country in medieval times. Some masons owned horses and carts, which formed their mode of transport. Masons were known to travel about in groups. Traditionally, they provided their own tools, which they sold to their employer at the commencement of

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b n	b	b	b	b	bd	b d m	b	b	b
b	b	b	b	b	b j l	bd	nw	b	br
B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
bs	c	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d
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d f g	d	d	c d f j r l	d j k l	d k l	d	do	d	ek
e	e	f g j k	f q	f	g i l q	g	g r	g j k	h
h	h	j t	i	i	i	i	j m w	k	k
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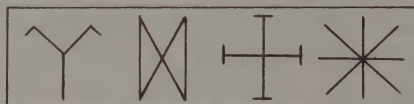
their work, and these would be sold back to them when they left.

MASONS' MARKS

A close examination of the walls at Byland Abbey will reveal the various marks made by the stone masons, as illustrated on the following chart. It is generally agreed that these marks were made by the mason to show responsibility for the work he had done, and also a check on his workmanship. It did not necessarily follow that he would mark every stone worked, as piecework did not appear to be involved. He would certainly mark the more elaborate stones. More often than not these marks consisted of a number of straight lines in various forms.

These marks can be considered of value, in so far as they may assist in tracing the movement of individual masons. They can also determine the date of a building's construction by knowing that a particular mason had already worked on a larger project, the historical records of which were more comprehensive. It may also show the influence of one building on another.

The marks illustrated refer to Byland Abbey, but it is interesting to note that four of these marks, i.e.



are also to be found in the north transept and east aisle of York Minster. In both cases the marks appear to be the work of 13th century masons.

KEY TO MARKS

Lay Brothers' range	(1170/1177)	a
Church (inner walls)	(1170/1225)	b
Church (outer walls)	(1170/1225)	c
Cloister	(1170/1200)	d
	(& 15th cent.)	
Library and vestry	(1170/1200)	e
Chapter house	(1180/1200)	f
Parlour	(1180/1225)	g
Passage	(1200/1225)	h
Day stairs to monks' dormer	(1200/1225)	i
Monks' reredorter substructure and drain	(1170/1200)	j
	(& 15th cent.)	
Abbot's lodging substructure and drain	(1180/1225)	k
Monks' dormer subvault piers and day rooms,	(1180/1200)	l
flying buttress on east side	(14th & 15th cent.)	
Warming house	(1180/1200)	m
Cellar (frater over)	(1180/1200)	n
Rooms east of cellar	(1180/1200)	o
	(& 14th cent.)	
Meat kitchen	(15th cent.)	p
Infirmary (Monks')	(1200/1225)	q
	(& 14th cent.)	

Lay Brothers' reredorter substructure and drain	(1170/1200) (& 15th cent.)	r
Lane	(1170/1177)	s
Flying buttress bases west of lay brothers' range	(14th cent.)	t
Outer buildings east of Abbey and flying buttress base	(14th cent.)	u
Museum, stones used in its construction		v
Museum, stones exhibited		w

The Workhouse Master

by J. Herbert Wilson

(Notes) Thanks largely to Charles Dickens, the Workhouse Master ranks with Fagin as one of the major villains of Victorian England. One may certainly feel glad not to have been a resident of the Helmsley Workhouse under John Wilson's predecessor, to judge from the Poor Law Minutes that follow. To the social historian, however, the workhouse is a phenomenon to be studied in the cool light of reason, not of emotional revulsion, and one thing that these notes reveal is that the workhouse master was as liable to stinginess and exploitation on the part of his superiors as he may sometimes have been to cruel or corrupt behaviour himself.

John Wilson, cobbler and smallholder of Rievaulx, was driven by the demands of his growing family to apply for the post of Workhouse Master in Helmsley. The following documentary extracts sketch in his career here (at the old workhouse in Pottergate, not the building which still stands in High Street) and subsequently in York. They have been compiled, with the help of the County Archivist, Northallerton, and the City Archivist, York, by his grandson, Mr. Herbert Wilson, whose affectionate interest in Ryedale matters is demonstrated by his membership of our Group, even though he now lives in Cornwall (where his house is called 'Rievaulx').

I. APPOINTMENT TO HELMSLEY (1850)

30 June 1849

The Clerk laid before the Board ... a letter from the Commissioners requesting to be informed whether the sureties of Richard Pipes were alive and solvent to the extent of their respective liabilities, when he was directed to reply they were alive and enquiry would be made.

22 September 1849

Moved by Mr. Smith seconded by the Revd. G. Dixon and carried unanimously that Richard Pipes the Relieving Officer and Workhouse Master be reprimanded by the Chairman for his past conduct having been frequently intoxicated and that on a repetition of the offence he will be suspended from his duties and forthwith reported to the Commissioners. Richd. Pipes was reprimanded by his Lordship accordingly.

23 February 1850

Resolved unanimously that the recent misconduct in the Workhouse by Richard Pipes the Master be referred to Mr. Hawley the Poor Law Inspector, and that the Clerk communicate the

9 March 1850

facts to him and that he take such steps as he may deem proper, the misconduct alluded to consists principally of repeated acts of drunkenness since he was reprimanded by Lord Feversham the Chairman in the presence of Mr. Hawley in Sep. last.

The Clerk read over to the Board a Letter from Mr. Hawley and another from the Commissioners with a copy of one addressed by them to Richard Pipes respecting the resolution of the Board on Saturday last also a copy of one addressed by him (the Clerk) to the Commissioners in reply thereto.

Resolved that a Committee consisting of the Revd. G. Dixon, J. H. Phillips, John Read, Geo. Craig and Wm. Stephenson, be appointed to prepare the charges against Pipes, and that he be suspended from his duties until after the Committee make their report.

Pipes then tendered the resignation of himself and Wife which was accepted by the Board.

It was then resolved that the Clerk do cause an advertisement to appear in the 3 York Papers of Saturday next for a Master & Matron to the Workhouse the Master to act as Relieving Officer the election to take place this day fortnight and the duties to commence on the 25th inst. applications and testimonials to be forwarded to the Clerk on or before Friday the 22nd inst. at 12 o'clock at noon.

Resolved that the visiting Committee of the Workhouse be deputed to appoint a man and his wife to perform the duties of Master & Matron and Reliev. Officer for the next fortnight.

Resolved that the Salary of the Master & Matron be reduced from £55 to £50 a year. Some of the Guardians having spoken against the resolution Mr. Hawley stated it was not competent in the Board to rescind any resolution without 7 days notice unless it was a question of emergency, when it was immediately resolved that it was a case of emergency. It was then resolved that the Salary remain as at Present £55.

23 March 1850

This being the day fixed for the appointment of a Workhouse Master & Matron and Relieving Officer the Clerk read over the advertisements from the Yorkshireman Newspaper of the 16th inst. and also the applications and testimonials of the 14 candidates and their Wives in the order he had received them each Candidate present being called in immediately after his testimonials had been read.

It was then resolved that the following 6 should be put in nomination, viz. Benjn. Tyerman, John Jackson, John Sowen, Jonn. Micklewood, John Wilson and Emanuel Bowes and on a poll being taken the numbers were as follows, viz. for

Tyerman	7
Jackson	16
Sowen	15
Micklewood	0
Wilson	14
Bowes	4

The two lowest numbers, viz. Micklewood and Bowes were then struck off and the remaining four polled for when the numbers were for

Tyerman	4
Jackson	14
Sowen	8
Wilson	14

The next two lowest, viz. Tyerman and Sowen were then struck off and the remaining two polled for, the Board then divided when there appeared 12 for Jackson and 12 for Wilson. The Chairman then gave the casting vote in favour of Wilson and declared John Wilson and Esther his Wife duly elected.

It was then resolved unanimously that Wilson be allowed to have one of his children in the House with him and to receive one ration for it on his paying 2s. 6d. a week for the same. Wilson to name his sureties at the next meeting.

6 April 1850

The Relieving Officer named as his Sureties Job Hawkins of Rivalx Abbey and Wm. Houlston of Scawton which were accepted by the Board.

The Clerk stated that several applications had been made to him from parties wanting money of Richd. Pipes which he had received from the Board, a check was given to the Clerk for Pipes' qrs. Salary £13. 15s. and he was directed first to pay John Wilson £2. 2. 3. for the fortnight he was in the House and then to pay the remaining £11. 12. 9. as far as it would last.

20 April 1850

The Clerk laid before the Board a letter from the Commissioners requesting them to suggest a distinct salary for the offices of Relieving Officer and Workhouse Master when £30 for the former and £15 for the latter was agreed to.

4 May 1850

The Clerk read over ... a letter from the Commissioners confirming the appointment of John Wilson and Hester his wife.

II. APPOINTMENT TO YORK (1853)

York Poor Law Union Minute Books.

29 Sep. 1853 p.542. "Resolved that John Wilson, late Workhouse Master of the Helmsley Union be appointed and his wife, Esther Wilson, Matron of the York Union Workhouse (subject to a trial of six months), the former at the salary of £40 and the latter at the salary of £20 per annum for the first year with suitable rations and lodgings and the use of the furniture now in the apartment appropriated to their use. And upon the understanding that if the Guardians be perfectly satisfied with

their efficiency and conduct at the end of the first year this Board will recommend their salaries to be raised, the Master's to £50 and the Matron's to £30 per annum. The Master to give security in the sum of £200 for the due performance of the offices by himself and wife, the appointment to be subject to the approval of the Poor Law Board and subject to some arrangement as to the maintenance of his children".

20 Mar. 1856 p.143. Testimonial to Mr. Wilson following his application for the post of Relieving Officer to the Prestwich Union.

19 Mar. 1857 p.474. Further testimonial to John Wilson and Esther his wife, they having applied for a similar post elsewhere.

7 Oct. 1857 p.308. Mr. Wilson requested a testimonial for his application for the office of Master of Salford Workhouse. The joint salary of himself and his wife was increased from £80 to £100 and his application was withdrawn.

5 June 1879 p.418. "Your Committee report they have had under consideration the letter from Mr., Mrs., and Miss Wilson tendering their resignations as Master, Matron and Assistant Matron at the Workhouse and recommend the Guardians to accept the same.

Your Committee have also had under their consideration the application of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson for a superannuation allowance and recommend the Board to grant them the sum of £10 each per annum".

10 July 1879 p.444. A motion that £10 each be allowed to Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, late Workhouse Master and Matron, as a superannuation allowance was defeated by 31 votes to 26.

"Mr. Ernest gave notice that on this day month he shall move that this Board desires to recognise the services of the late Master and Matron of the Workhouse, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, and to offer its sympathy with Mr. Wilson in his affliction and that a superannuation allowance of £25 for the next two half years ensuing be allowed them".

7 Aug. 1879 p.461. "Mr. Ernest having withdrawn his notice of motion relative to the granting of a superannuation allowance to Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, late Master and Matron of the Workhouse.

It was unanimously resolved that the Guardians of this Union desire to recognise the services of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson who during the past 26 years have most efficiently, successfully and to the satisfaction of this Union discharged their duties as Master and Matron of the Workhouse, and trust that in their retirement they will enjoy for many years health and comfort as the reward of an useful and faithful life".

Yorkshire Gazette, 4 Nov. 1882.

Death of John Wilson of Portland Street on 28 Oct. 1882 after a long illness. Formerly Master of York Workhouse. (He was aged 64).

Directories and Voters' Lists

Mrs. Esther Wilson was living at St. John's Street from 1886 to 1894.

Yorkshire Gazette, 4 May 1895

Death of Mrs. Esther Wilson of 7, St. John's Street, on 30 Apr. 1895, aged 77.

Seven Generations of the Bowlby Family from Helmsley, York, England

by William J. Hill

From one yeoman family with its roots in Ryedale, we turn to another. This time local ties have stretched even further than from Cornwall, for the compiler of this genealogy - also a member of the Helmsley Group - lives in California.

The figures in brackets on the left number the generations from the first recorded Richard Bowlby, and the names of his descendants are followed by their paternal ancestors in ascending order.

(1) RICHARD BOWLBY
Will proved York, 1553.

m. ALISON

Issue:

(2) JOHN BOWLBY of Griffie
Will dated March 22, 1567/8
- York.

m. ELIZABETH
Will dated Feb. 8, 1598/9 - proved
at York 27 June 1599

(2) RICHARD BOWLBY - living 1553
(2) BRIDGET BOWLBY - living 1553
(2) JANE BOWLBY
(2) RALPH BOWLBY - living in 1553
(2) MATTHEW BOWLBY - living 1553

m. ROWLAND in 1552

(3) JAMES BOWLBY (John 2, Richard 1)
Living 1567 and 1598
Buried at Helmsley 2 March
1607/8
Will dated 28 Feb. 1607/8
Proved at York 21 Dec. 1608

m. ANN THOMPSON of Rievaulx
- Co. York
m. at Helmsley 20 Jan. 1589/90
Proved her husband's will in 1608

(3) RALPH BOWLBY of Griffie
(John 2, Richard 1)
Living in 1567 and 1598
Buried at Helmsley 29 Nov. 1601
Administration granted - York -
22 April 1602

m. (1) JANE BUTTERIE of Rievaulx
m. 30 Nov. 1587 at Helmsley
Buried at Helmsley 9 May 1588
- Probably died in childbirth
with John Bowlby 4 (Ralph 3,
John 2, Richard 1) who was
buried at Helmsley same date -
9 May 1588

m. (2) MARGARET
Buried at Helmsley 23 Jan.
1630/1

(3) JOHN BOWLBY (John 2, Richard 1)
of Helmsley
Living 1567 and 1598

m. JANE FORREY of Farnedale
m. at Helmsley 13 Oct. 1583

- (3) THOMAS BOWLBY of Griffe
(John 2, Richard 1)
Youngest son in 1567 - Living
in 1598
Administration granted - York -
21 Dec. 1603
- (3) ISABEL BOWLBY (John 2, Richard 1)
Living in 1567
- (3) DOROTHY BOWLBY (John 2,
Richard 1)
Living at Helmsley 1587
- (4) ELIZABETH BOWLBY (James 3,
John 2, Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 30 Jan. 1590
- (4) JOHN BOWLBY (James 3, John 2,
Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 12 April
1593
Buried at Helmsley 24 Sept. 1609
- (4) ANNE BOWLBY (James 3, John 2,
Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 10 May 1595
Buried at Helmsley 26 Aug. 1597
- (4) JAMES BOWLBY (James 3, John 2,
Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 30 July 1598
Living in 1607
- (4) THOMAS BOWLBY (James 3, John 2,
Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 9 March
1599/1600
Buried at Helmsley 12 March
1599/1600
- (4) JANE BOWLBY (James 3, John 2,
Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 17 May 1601
- (4) ANNE BOWLBY (James 3, John 2,
Richard 1)
Living in 1607
- (4) GEORGE BOWLBY (Ralph 3, John 2,
Richard 1) of Griffe
Baptised at Helmsley 29 Feb
1592/3
Buried at Helmsley 10 Dec. 1657
- m. ANNE RAPER of Coxwold
m. at Helmsley 6 Nov. 1593
- m. (1) JOHN DOBSON
m. at Helmsley 30 Jan. 1587/8
Who died before 1598
m. (2) JOHN ROBINSON
Dorothy was his wife in 1598
- m. GEORGE RICHARDSON
m. at Helmsley 3 June 1611
- m. MATHEW BUTTERIE
m. at Helmsley 7 Dec. 1628
- m. (1) REBECCA RUSSELL
m. at Helmsley 27 Nov. 1618
Buried at Helmsley 31 Dec. 1639
m. (2) ELIZABETH BRUSBY
m. at Helmsley 21 May 1640

- (4) MARGARET BOWLBY (Ralph 3,
John 2, Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 14 July 1594
Buried at Helmsley 31 July 1632
- (4) JOHN BOWLBY (Ralph 3, John 2,
Richard 1) of Griffe
Baptised at Helmsley 3 July 1597
Buried at Helmsley 26 July 1630
Will dated 22 May 1630
Proved at York 20 April 1632
- (4) ANNE BOWLBY (Ralph 3, John 2,
Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 24 Feb.
1598/9
- (4) ELIZABETH BOWLBY (Ralph 3,
John 2, Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 29 March
1601
- (4) RICHARD BOWLBY (John 3, John 2,
Richard 1) of Helmsley
Baptised at Helmsley 16 March
1588/9
Buried at Helmsley 9 May 1652
- (4) JOHN BOWLBY (John 3, John 2,
Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 15 May 1592
Living in 1607
- (4) HELEN BOWLBY (John 3, John 2,
Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 2 June 1594
- (4) ELIZABETH BOWLBY (Thomas 3,
John 2, Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 13 Jan.
1593/4
Buried at Helmsley 8 July 1599
- (4) KATHERINE BOWLBY (Thomas 3,
John 2, Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 21 June 1594
- (4) SYBELL BOWLBY (Thomas 3, John 2,
Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 4 April 1595
- (4) RALPH BOWLBY (Thomas 3, John 2,
Richard 1) of Helmsley
Baptised at Helmsley 28 Oct. 1596
- (4) ELIZABETH BOWLBY (Thomas 3,
John 2, Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 6 July 1599
Living 1607
- m. ELIZABETH MANNERS
m. at Helmsley 22 May 1625
Proved her husband's will 1632
- m. THOMAS DIGHTON
m. at Helmsley 12 May 1622
- m. THOMAS ALLEN
m. at Helmsley 11 April 1624
- m. ELIZABETH SPENCE
m. at Helmsley 31 July 1625
Administration granted - York -
11 April 1664
- m. CHARLES KIDSON
m. at Helmsley 14 Oct. 1621

- (5) ELIZABETH BOWLBY (George 4 &
Rebecca Russell, Ralph 3, John 2,
Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 26 June 1625
- (5) THOMAS BOWLBY (George 4 &
Rebecca Russell, Ralph 3, John 2,
Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 3 Aug. 1628
- (5) RALPH BOWLBY (George 4 &
Rebecca Russell, Ralph 3, John 2,
Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 3 March
1632/3
- (5) WILLIAM BOWLBY (George 4 &
Eliz. Brusby, Ralph 3, John 2,
Richard 1) of Griffé
Baptised at Helmsley 6 June 1641
- (5) ELIZABETH BOWLBY (George 4 &
Eliz. Brusby, Ralph 3, John 2,
Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 18 Sept.
1642
- (5) ANN BOWLBY (George 4 &
Eliz. Brusby, Ralph 3, John 2,
Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 11 Feb.
1643/4
Buried at Helmsley 3 Sept. 1648
- (5) MARGARET BOWLBY (George 4 &
Eliz. Brusby, Ralph 3, John 2,
Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 6 Jan.
1645/6
- (5) JANET BOWLBY (George 4 &
Eliz. Brusby, Ralph 3, John 2,
Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 6 Jan. 1647/8
- (5) RALPH BOWLBY (George 4 & Eliz.
Brusby, Ralph 3, John 2,
Richard 1) of Griffé
Baptised at Helmsley 17 June 1649
Administration granted at York
16 June 1716
- (5) GEORGE BOWLBY (George 4 &
Eliz. Brusby, Ralph 3, John 2,
Richard 1) of Rievaulx
Baptised at Helmsley 29 Nov. 1651
Buried at Helmsley 29 April 1639
- m. JOHN HAGUE of Harom
m. at Helmsley 24 June 1669
- m. MARY GRIME
m. at Helmsley 25 Nov. 1675
Will dated 5 Feb. 1722/3
Proved at York 28 July 1725
- m. MARY FRANK
m. at Helmsley 23 May 1678

- (5) RICHARD BOWLBY (George 4 &
Eliz. Brusby, Ralph 3, John 2,
Richard 1)
Born 13 and Baptised 16 Feb.
1653/4
- (5) REBECCA BOWLBY (George 4 &
Eliz. Brusby, Ralph 3, John 2,
Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 5 Oct. 1657
- (5) ELIZABETH BOWLBY (John 4, Ralph 3,
John 2, Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 24 Mar.
1625/6
- (5) JOHN BOWLBY of Griffie (John 4,
Ralph 3, John 2, Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 30 Mar. 1628
Buried at Helmsley 29 April 1665
- (5) MARGARET BOWLBY (John 4,
Ralph 3, John 2, Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 13 Nov. 1630
- (5) HELEN BOWLBY (Richard 4, John 3,
John 2, Richard 1) m. MATHEW BRISBO
Baptised at Helmsley 21 Jan. m. at Helmsley 10 Aug. 1647
1626/7
- (5) ROBERT BOWLBY (Richard 4, John 3,
John 2, Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 27 Nov. 1628
Buried at Helmsley 1 Oct. 1669
- (5) GEORGE BOWLBY (Richard 4, John 3,
John 2, Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 9 April 1631
Buried at Helmsley 5 March 1650/1
- (5) BRYAN BOWLBY (Richard 4, John 3,
John 2, Richard 1) of Helmsley m. ELIZABETH MANNERS
Baptised at Helmsley 17 Nov. 1633 m. at Helmsley 6 Oct. 1659
Died at Mansfield Woodhouse, Died at Mansfield Woodhouse,
Notts., 21 Nov. 1691 Notts., 26 Nov. 1669.
- (See sixth generation below for continuation of this line to America).
- (5) JORDAN BOWLBY (Richard 4, John 3,
John 2, Richard 1) of Helmsley
Baptised at Helmsley 25 Dec. 1637
Will dated 25 May 1714
Proved at York 13 Jan. 1715/16
- (5) RICHARD BOWLBY (Richard 4, John 3,
John 2, Richard 1) m. FRANCES SWAINSTON
Baptised at Helmsley 9 July 1640 daughter of Thomas Swainston
Alderman and Mayor of Stockton- of Stockton-on-Tees.
on-Tees 1707 m. at Norton, Co. Durham
2 Nov. 1697

Buried at Stockton-on-Tees

29 July 1722

Orig. Will dated 16 Jan. 1708/9

- (5) THOMAS BOWLBY (Richard 4,
John 3, John 2, Richard 1) of
Darlington, Co. Durham
Will dated 19 Aug. 1709
Proved at Durham 1710

m. CHRISTIAN GARBUT

m. at Helmsley 8 Sept. 1667

Living in 1709

- (6) MARY BOWLBY (Ralph 5, George 4
& Eliz.Brusby, Ralph 3, John 2,
Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 28 Jan.1676/7

- (6) GEORGE BOWLBY (Ralph 5,
George 4 & Eliz. Brusby, Ralph 3,
John 2, Richard 1) of Helmsley
Baptised at Helmsley 6 Aug. 1682
Administration granted at York
29 May 1735

- (6) THOMAS BOWLBY (Ralph 5,
George 4 & Eliz. Brusby, Ralph 3,
John 2, Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 17 Oct. 1699
Living in 1722 and 1735

- (6) REBECCA BOWLBY (George 5,
George 4 & Eliz. Brusby, Ralph 3,
John 2, Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 2 July 1682

- (6) ANNE BOWLBY (George 5,
George 4 & Eliz. Brusby, Ralph 3,
John 2, Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 15 Sept. 1691

- (6) ELIZABETH BOWLBY (George 5,
George 4 & Eliz.Brusby, Ralph 3,
John 2, Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 1 Sept.1700

- (6) JOHN BOWLBY (John 5, John 4,
Ralph 3, John 2, Richard 1) of
Griffe
Baptised at Helmsley 10 Aug. 1653
Will dated 25 Oct. 1732
Proved at York 22 Aug. 1733

- (6) ANNE BOWLBY (John 5, John 4,
Ralph 3, John 2, Richard 1)
Born 8 and Baptised 10 April
1655 at Helmsley

- (6) JOSIA BOWLBY (John 5, John 4,
Ralph 3, John 2, Richard 1)
Born 21 Sept. 1657

m. ELLENORA SADLER

m. at Helmsley 1 Aug. 1682

Living in 1732

- (6) ELIZABETH BOWLBY (John 5,
John 4, Ralph 3, John 2,
Richard 1)
Baptised at Helmsley 27 Dec. 1662
- (6) ELIZABETH BOWLBY (Bryan 5,
Richard 4, John 3, John 2,
Richard 1)
Born Mansfield Woodhouse,
Notts., 10 Aug. 1660
- (6) RICHARD BOWLBY (Bryan 5,
Richard 4, John 3, John 2,
Richard 1)
Born Mansfield Woodhouse
26 Mar. 1662
- (6) BRYAN BOWLBY (Bryan 5,
Richard 4, John 3, John 2,
Richard 1)
Born Mansfield Woodhouse
5 June 1664
- (6) THOMAS BOWLBY (Bryan 5,
Richard 4, John 3, John 2,
Richard 1)
Born Mansfield Woodhouse
16 Sept. 1665
Died Burlington, New Jersey
(U.S.A.) Feb. 1730/1.
Will probated 7 Mar. 1730/1
- (6) MARY BOWLBY (Bryan 5,
Richard 4, John 3, John 2,
Richard 1)
Born Mansfield Woodhouse
18 Oct. 1667
- (6) HELEN BOWLBY (Bryan 5,
Richard 4, John 3, John 2,
Richard 1)
Born Mansfield Woodhouse
27 Aug. 1669
Died 17 Feb. 1673
- (6) THOMAS BOWLBY (Richard 5,
Richard 4, John 3, John 2,
Richard 1) of North Bailey
in City of Durham
Eldest son in 1708/9
Died 25 and buried 26 Oct. 1730
in Cathedral Yard, Durham.
Will dated 20 Oct. 1730,
proved at Durham 1746
- m. MARTHA BARKER dau. of
Samuel Barker, Gent. of
Barlborough, Derbyshire.
Still living 1747
- m. MARY BURRELL, dau. of Peter
Burrell of So. Bailey, City of
Durham.
Baptised St. Mary-le-Bow
28 Feb. 1697/8
m. Durham Cathedral 2 Feb. 1720
died 13th, buried 15 Aug. 1783
in Cathedral Yard, Durham

- (6) JORDAN BOWLBY (Richard 5,
Richard 4, John 3, John 2,
Richard 1)
Second son. Living 1708/9
under age.
- (6) RICHARD BOWLBY (Richard 5,
Richard 4, John 3, John 2,
Richard 1) of Stockton-on-Tees,
youngest son 1708/9.
Baptised Stockton 29 June 1703
Buried Stockton 12 Mar. 1736/7
- (6) ELLEN BOWLBY (Thomas 5,
Richard 4, John 3, John 2,
Richard 1)
Living in 1709
- (6) ELIZABETH BOWLBY (Thomas 5,
Richard 4, John 3, John 2,
Richard 1)
Living in 1709
- (6) MARY BOWLBY (Thomas 5,
Richard 4, John 3, John 2,
Richard 1) Living in 1709
- (7) JORDAN BOWLBY (Thomas 6,
Bryan 5, Richard 4, John 3,
John 2, Richard 1)
Born Mansfield Woodhouse,
Notts. 3 June 1696 - Had a
son Edward who had sons, one
named Jordan.
- (7) SAMUEL BOWLBY (Thomas 6,
Bryan 5, Richard 4, John 3,
John 2, Richard 1)
Died between 9 Jan. 1724 and
17 April 1726 without issue
- (7) JOHN BOWLBY (Thomas 6,
Bryan 5, Richard 4, John 3,
John 2, Richard 1)
Born England bet. 1696 and 1706
came to America in 1727
Will dated 7 Dec. 1779
Died at Imlaydale, New Jersey
Dec. 1782
Will proved 31 Dec. 1782
- (7) ELIZABETH BOWLBY (Thomas 6,
Bryan 5, Richard 4, John 3,
John 2, Richard 1)
Born Mansfield Woodhouse,
Notts. 26 June 1706. Still a spinster in June 1743
- m. EMMA EASTERBY, dau. of John
& Catherine Easterby of Stock-
ton-on-Tees.
Baptised Stockton 6 Apl. 1703,
m. Stockton 16 May 1734,
buried Stockton 8 July 1777
- m. GEORGE THIRSBY (living in
1709)
- m. MARY (Probably
Mercer)
m. at Burlington, N.J. in 1734.
Died at Imlaydale, N.J. after
1779.
- m. BEARD

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>(7) THOMAS BOWLBY (Thomas 6,
Bryan 5, Richard 4, John 3,
John 2, Richard 1)
Born Mansfield Woodhouse,
Notts. 29 Sept. 1708.
Died in Philadelphia, Penn.
(U.S.A.) 14 March 1789</p> | <p>m. (1) <u>CATHERINE FITZRANDOLPH</u>
of Middlesex
m. in 1745
m. (2) <u>MARY TULEY</u>, a widow, of
Burlington
m. in 1749</p> |
| <p>(7) GEORGE BOWLBY (Thomas 6,
Bryan 5, Richard 4, John 3,
John 2, Richard 1)
Born 6 Feb. 1711, Mansfield
Woodhouse, Notts.
Died in 1773 (U.S.A.)</p> | <p>m. <u>ELIZABETH TUNKIN</u> of
Springfield, Burlington Co.,
N.J.
m. in 1737</p> |
| <p>(7) MARTHA BOWLBY (Thomas 6,
Bryan 5, Richard 4, John 3,
John 2, Richard 1)
Born Mansfield Woodhouse
26 May 1713
(Still a spinster in June 1743)</p> | <p>m. <u>ORDRIDGE</u>
(England)</p> |
| <p>(7) JANE BOWLBY (Thomas 6,
Bryan 5, Richard 4, John 3,
John 2, Richard 1)
Born Mansfield Woodhouse
6 Oct. 1714</p> | <p>m. <u>WILLIAM DALTON</u> (England)
after 1726</p> |
| <p>(7) RICHARD BOWLBY (Thomas 6,
Bryan 5, Richard 4, John 3,
John 2, Richard 1)
Baptised at Mansfield Wood-
house, Notts. 12 Jan. 1719
Came to America prior to
14 May 1747.
Died Nova Scotia, aged 99
years</p> | <p>m. <u>MARY DRAKE</u>
m. about 1754</p> |

This ends the generations of Bowlbys from which stem the Bowlby lines in America and Canada from the early 1700's to the present time.

Compiler: (May 1965)

William J. Hill, 1927 Foxworthy Avenue, San Jose, California, U.S.A.
95124.

Sources: Marriage, Birth and Death Records from Nottinghamshire Parish, England,
1915 Pedigree filed with College of Arms by Charles Cotsford Bowlby.

New Jersey records, Trenton, New Jersey.

W.A.Reeves, Bowlby Family Researcher.

Margaret Bowlby Leffingwell, Bowlby Family Researcher.

Dr. Harry Laity Bowlby, Bowlby Family Researcher.

Col. Herbert Meade Bowlby Jr., Bowlby Family Researcher.

Dr. Edward John Mostyn Bowlby, London.

Lowna Mill, Gillamoor

by John T. Capron.

(Editor's note: Mention was made in Ryedale Historian No.2, of the survey of local water-mills being carried out in collaboration with the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. We had hoped to include in this issue a full report on progress, but space will not allow. It therefore seems wiser to select the report on one rather unusual mill as a sample of what volunteers have been doing, and Mr. Capron has kindly written up his findings on Lowna Mill for this number. Reports are also complete on Bransdale (R.H.Hayes), Farndale High and Low (J.W.Carter), Glaisdale and Lealholm (Mrs.Stainthorpe), and Rievaulx (C.W.Noel); work is proceeding on other mills, and a comprehensive list of known sites in the area is being compiled.)

John Baxter, retired farmer and tanner, died at Gillamoor on the 27th September 1966. By his death, in his ninetieth year, was lost a living link with the past. His own lucid memory carried back to the time of the Sudan War and Gordon of Khartoum, while reliable family hearsay extended to Waterloo and beyond. The focal point of his life and work was his farm, mill, and (up to the 1914 War) tannery, at Lowna, a mile north of Gillamoor "on the water of Dove" below Farndale.

The Baxter connection with Lowna (Lownay Birks in old deeds) goes back now two hundred years, as Mr. Baxter's great-grandfather, Thomas Baxter, reputed to have come there as a boy of nine, was born in 1761. But the thread of actual ownership leads back to the story of a young girl, Dinah Moon. For her, on 23rd December 1780, the Court of Exchequer, moved (in its own words) because "it is a principal part of Charity to assist those who by reason of immature age are incapable of governing themselves discreetly and with prudence and of managing their Affairs to best advantage", appointed for her guidance three local guardians. The occasion was the death of her grandfather, John Wilson, of "ffarndale", yeoman, under whose Will she was devisee of Lownay Birks. Twenty years later Dinah was in full control of her Affairs: for on 12th August 1801 at Hutton she signed an Agreement for the sale at £930 of the property to Thomas Baxter, then described as skinner, and then in occupation there. And within a few months thereafter she had allowed herself to be wooed and married by a Durham grocer - John Mark of Hamsterley. It is his name we find on the actual deed of enfeoffment to Thomas, dated 6th April 1803, with Dinah his Wife merely "party thereto". The deed is endorsed "John Mark & Ux:".

The description of the property itself was, in the ample way of the lawyers, exhaustive. It included "all that fulling mill .. sock soocken multure..". But Mr. Baxter was always definite that none of his forebears were engaged in that business, and that under the Baxters the mill was a corn mill, used for their own purposes of the farm and also to power the tan-yard machinery and equipment. Maybe the draftsman followed slavishly the wording of the earlier deeds as his precedent, without bringing the parcels up-to-date. As to the land included, ten individual closes were noted and named, grouped either side of the beck - 28 acres freehold: Oldmans Garth, Gospill Hill, Oak Shaw, Woodend, Holm, Ryefield, Highlands, Netherfield, Boggs, and Grindwell. And 5 acres copyhold of the Manor of Kirbymoorside: Great Fadle Close and Little Fadle Close. Despite some

hedge alterations these closes are still readily identifiable.

During his long reign of 54 years ownership of Lowna Thomas saw and himself introduced many changes there. In 1825 Lowna bridge was built to carry the road over the Dove, where formerly was a ford. Although starting life as a skinner and a buyer of wool, he laid the foundations of the tannery that was to be the basis of life at Lowna for the next century, the farm being subsidiary until eventually, early in the 1914 War, the order was reversed. The tannery, meeting insurmountable difficulties of supply and labour, had to be discontinued, and the farm came into its own. Maybe it was best for the farm to be subsidiary in the early days; anyhow a Valuation in February 1780, when Dinah Moon's grandfather died, gave these revealing figures: 1 Horse & Saddle - £2. 2. 0. 3 Cows - £8. 10. 0. 57 Sheep - £14. 10. 0. Then, rather surprisingly, 1 Pigg - £1. 16. 0.

The legal charges for the considerable transaction of the sale to Thomas, which took two years to complete, including the preliminary Contract, registration of deed at Northallerton, payment of stamps and fees there, correspondence, including letters to Hamsterley, and the two final deeds (enfeoffment as to the freehold and Manor Award as to the copyhold) came to the surely modest total of £5.1.0. One feels that Mr. John Harding truly earned his fees.

At Helmsley a tannery was also carried on by the Baxters, but it was quite separate from that at Lowna. When at last, at 97, Thomas died in September 1857 his grandson, John II had to come posthaste and knowing nothing of the Lowna business, to take over there. His father, John I, also at Helmsley all his life, had died that same summer, in July, three months before Thomas. Everything therefore devolved suddenly on John II, and our Mr. John Baxter (John III) grew up beside him to help him and, when he died in 1906, to take over from him.

What of the mill itself? Its origin is lost in antiquity, and it may of old have been harnessed direct to the main stream of the water of Dove, subject to all the hazards of flood and flood-borne timber. But under the Baxters it was race-fed, the head of water held about a hundred yards upstream by a weir with sluice control. Today the mill machinery has fallen into decay and is partly dismantled. Only parts of the shafting and gear wheels remain to explain the layout and system used when the tannery was in full operation. The wheel itself, inside its original stone building and at race level, was of bolted cast iron sections - now dismantled and in use as sides of the neighbouring beast yard, but with the makers, name "Butlers, Helmsley" clearly visible and the date of last renewal, 1887. Of 15 foot diameter 3 foot wide at hub, it carried five scallop-shell shaped pitchpine buckets on each of its eight segments. The shaft was of oak, 16 inch diameter, bedded in stonework, and turned on a brass carriage, hooped with four hoops a yard from either end. The corn grind-stones are still in place, peak stones, five foot six inch diameter, on hurst frame, which were thrown out of gear by an iron screw lever raising the wallower so as to disengage. The pit wheel, 70 inch diameter, was of iron, in two sections bolted together, with 80 iron teeth, and of compass arm type, while the wallower, also of iron, was 17 inch diameter and with 20 wooden teeth. These last were of ash, and were made up in Gillamoor. Two intermediate wheels, also of iron, remain in place, 32 inch with 40 teeth, and 54 inch with 80 teeth. The upright shaft is of iron, three inch diameter, with metal bearings on beams. There was no sack hoist for grain, but one to lift the bags of oak bark, which was stored in an upper chamber east of the mill.

Hearsay but reliable evidence shows that Thomas in his early days was a

wool-buyer as well as being described as "skinner". He bought wool from farms around and up the dales, and carried it to York in sheets. He happened to be there that June day when news of Waterloo swept into the city. Realising at once the effect this would have upon his trade, he hastily got together as many of his sheets as he could and hurried to secure all the fleeces possible, saying afterwards that it was as good a day's work as ever he did.

When the tannery was working the mill was largely used in its conjunction: for not only did it drive the pump which circulated water through the nest of soak-pits, numerous and elaborate, where the hides lay in oak-bark solution, but it also turned the crusher that broke the bark to appropriate nut size. This was a considerable work, remembering that forty tons of oak-bark were normally in store - in fact this tan yard took about half of all the oak bark annually produced on the Duncombe Park estate, from which it was brought in two-horse waggons. Special barrows were in use at Lowna to move it there. Before being put through the crusher it was filled into bags, 14 stone weight, suitable for the hoist to lift to storage.

An adjustment of the belting brought into use power to work a heavy bone Crusher, housed in another upper chamber, west of the mill. Butlers had contrived an ingenious endless belt that conveyed small buckets which tipped the bones as required. If any failed first time round to be broken to required standard size they automatically passed on to circulate again before returning to the crusher. This was a subsidiary and a seasonal business, devised by John Baxter II, and was operated until his death in 1906. It was a useful sideline, at no expense, the old bones being collected when fetching home hides from the various butchers who regularly supplied them. It was seasonal, as the bone-meal sold for root crop fertiliser to the neighbouring farms was applied when drilling in May and June. It old by the quarter, 4 bushels to the quarter. Two heavy plated rollers were used and a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch riddle, the bones being dropped and shuttled to and fro until broken down.

It will be seen therefore that several varied operations were powered, including, for the tannery: water pump and bark breaking; for the fertiliser: bone crusher; for the farm: corn-mill, threshing gear, and wood saw. Incidentally, the pumping, which was almost continuously required to be in operation for the tannery soak-pits, was light work, so that other uses of the power could be made simultaneously. But the bone-crushing, the milling of grain, and the bark-breaking all called for full power of the wheel in each case.

It is now half a century since the tannery, which had established a reputation for the quality of its leather, ceased work. The water from the mill-race still runs through the farm-buildings, under the shafting of the old wheel, and back underground into the beck. Just above the wheel, too, the water can still be deflected by a hand-worked sluice into another "goit-hole" which shoots it back, right-angled and this time above ground, into the stream.

Today only so much remains to be seen or traced of what was for over a century, and through the generations of one family, such an ingenious hive of local industry, in which full, varied and efficient use was made of the water power available, with a never-failing flow, and without record of any serious flooding.

These notes have been possible through the kind cooperation of the late Mr. Baxter's daughters, Mrs. Mary Wass and Miss Elizabeth Baxter. And it is pleasant to record that David Baxter Wass, Mr. Baxter's grandson, now helps his father farm at Lowna.

Notes on Ryedale Churches

by Cyril King

3. ALL SAINTS', HELMSLEY.

Although the church at Helmsley can scarcely be regarded as other than modern – it was virtually rebuilt about a century ago – there are nevertheless some interesting features. The south entrance with its four orders of chevron, and the chancel arch, are Norman, whilst the arches and capitals of the aisle arcade are Transitional – perhaps half a century later. In addition the early 13th century lower stages of the tower remain, together with the fine Early English tower arch. It is, in fact, a rebuilt Norman church which has undergone various changes throughout its history.

But perhaps even more interesting are the old photographs displayed within the tower which show the church just before the 19th century rebuilding, and from which a fascinating story may be pieced together. These show a beautiful 15th century church with flat roof and battlemented parapet on the south side (Note 1). No trace of that fine old church with its large and handsome traceried windows remains, but the new church is built upon the old plan – almost certainly upon the old foundations. Furthermore it seems certain that the original Norman church was also built upon the same general plan. This is borne out by the old photographs which show the distinct trace of an old high Norman roof of the porch upon the nave wall above the flat roof of the photograph. This shows that up to that time the portion of the nave wall at this juncture remained untouched and was in fact the original Norman fabric (Note 2), and this in turn suggests that the 15th century church of the photographs was a repaired rather than a rebuilt Norman church. It may therefore be assumed that the Norman church was cruciform as is the present structure.

Now the primary purpose of transepts in Romanesque architecture was for structural needs rather than as a means of enlarging the church. The extra space provided was in fact used to accommodate chapels and chantries, but these – especially the latter – were never frequent until much later, and certainly in Norman times it would have been unusual to provide so much extra space for that purpose (Note 3). Their main reason was one of structural necessity – in order to provide abutment for a central tower.

Although Romanesque architecture reached a high degree of perfection in the Norman period – one need only see Durham cathedral to appreciate this – its one great weakness was in its semicircular arches. Although tremendously strong, they exerted an excessive lateral thrust which could only be counteracted by building massive pillars and thick walls. But even this was insufficient in the case of the tremendous weight of a central tower and the resulting outward thrust adjacent to the transverse arches. Norman buttresses – flat pilasters – were totally inadequate, whilst the flying buttress – in conjunction with two-centered arches – had not yet been invented. The best way to compensate these forces was by building transverse walls at this juncture. These were roofed over and formed the transepts of a cruciform church. It follows that a cruciform Norman church usually possessed a central tower (Note 4).

Now the Normans were not very good at building central towers, and despite the adequate support provided by transepts, there were frequent disasters.

Many of their towers fell in within a few decades of being built. Where these misfortunes occurred, the builders were reluctant to tempt Providence a second time and either the church was repaired without rebuilding the tower, or else the fallen tower was replaced by a new and more safely positioned west tower.

Something like this may well have happened at Helmsley, and from what has been said, together with the evidence provided by the remaining structure, a fascinating story of the church's history is revealed. The original cruciform church with its central tower stood for more than half a century undisturbed. Then, about the end of the 12th century, the church was enlarged by the addition of a north aisle. First the walls were built out on the north side of the nave, the roof was added, and finally the nave wall was pierced and the arches and piers of the arcade inserted. At the same time the north transept wall was pierced in order to allow access between aisle and transept. The piercing of these two walls – nave and transept, which provide the longitudinal and transverse abutment of the tower – may have so weakened the structure at this juncture that the tower was left without adequate support. (It will be appreciated that the north-west corner of the tower now rested on a single prop rather than upon the solid walls in abutment with the remaining corners). Before long ominous cracks began to appear, and either the tower was taken down as a safety precaution, or else it actually fell down. In any case a new west tower was built, the lower stages of which remain to this day.

The sequence of events described above is supported by the remaining mediaeval features of the church. The capitals with conventional carving, and the high pointed arches of the arcade belong to the end of the 12th century, whilst the responds and moulded orders of the tower arch show a well developed Early English style. The "hold-water" bases however, and the lancets of the second stage, indicate a period before Geometric, and one may therefore define the maximum interval between the building of the arcade and the tower as about 50 years – an interval which on the other hand could be much less than this.

Little more of the church's history can be followed until we come to the evidence of the old photographs which show that during the 15th century a major restoration was carried out. The high Norman roofs were replaced by the now fashionable flat roof and parapet, whilst the new and large traceried windows considerably improved the lighting. And so the church remained until the 19th century when, with the exception of the lower part of the tower and the south entrance it was pulled down and rebuilt from the ground (Note 5).

Much of what has been said must of course, be regarded as conjectural – although not without firm grounds. But if one keeps to facts little can be added to that which has already been said so many times in the countless histories and guide books; many a fascinating story would never be revealed, and in many cases – from the ecclesiologist's point of view – a church would otherwise be regarded as little more than a heap of uninteresting stones.

Notes

- (1) See also description of the old church in T. Whellan, History and Topography of the City of York and the North Riding (1859), Vol. 2, pp. 245-7.
- (2) The Norman south entrance remains to this day, and within the modern porch the rough stones of the nave wall sharply contrast with the modern sawn blocks outside the porch. It appears that this small portion of the wall remained standing during the 19th century rebuilding, and is in fact

the only portion of the 12th century structure which has remained undisturbed throughout the church's history.

- (3) Norman churches did of course sometimes possess chapels, but where there were no transepts these were small compartments built out from the nave or chancel, or they might occupy the end of an aisle. Such comparatively small chambers were sufficient for the purpose.
- (4) Dr. Gee points out that a few 12th century churches, e.g. Iffley (Oxon.), Stewkeley (Bucks), had central towers without transepts, but they are exceptional.
- (5) Amongst the few surviving medieval features, the lower stages of the tower and the south entrance remain in situ, whilst the capitals and arches of the arcade and the chancel arch were replaced in their former positions.

Helmsley Borough Charter

The Bodleian Library, Oxford, has recently supplied photostat copies of the Helmsley Borough Charter to the Rural District. One is to be hung in the Hall of the Council Offices, and the other given to the Public Library for display. Since the Charter is referred to but not quoted in full in the History of Helmsley..., we give the Latin text and a translation.

CARTA ROBERTI DE ROS BURGENSIBUS SUIIS DE HELMESLEY

Omnibus visuris vel audituris has literas Robertus de Roos salutem. Sciatis me dedisse et concessisse et hac presenti carta confirmasse Burgensibus meis de Helmesley omnes libertates, leges et consuetudines quas Civitas Ebor. habet in se, cum Soch et Sach et Danegeld, et Tholl et Them et Infangthef; concedo in pastura mea, tam in campis quam in Moris, et in boscis ubique, excepto parco meo. Concedo etiam eis boscum ad foculum, et ad edificandum versus moram. Hec omnia dedi et concessi predictis Burgensibus meis tenentibus de me et heredibus meis in perpetuum bene et honorifice in pace libere et quiete. Reddendi mihi et heredibus meis annuatim undecim libras argenti, pro omnibus servitiis, auxiliis et demandis. Ego vero et heredes mei hec omnia warantizabimus predictis Burgensibus meis, sicuti predictum est contra omnes homines in perpetuum. Hiis testibus Waltero Priore de Kirkham, Hugone de Wildeker, Rogero Trussebut, Drogone de Harum, Willelmo de Tampton, Willelmo persona de Rosse, Roberto de Sproxton, Rogero de Wyldeker, Radulpho Coco, (?) Malpar, Willelmo Clerico, et aliis.

(Translation)

CHARTER OF ROBERT DE ROS TO HIS BURGESSES OF HELMSLEY

Robert de Roos to all who shall see or hear these present, greetings. Know ye that I have given granted and by this present charter confirmed to my burgesses of Helmsley all the liberties laws and customs which the city of York has of itself, in soc and sac and danegeld and toll, team and infangthief; I grant them rights in

my pasture, both in fields and moors, and everywhere in woods except in my park. I grant them also wood for their hearths, and for building, towards the moor. All this have I given and granted to my aforesaid burgesses, to be held of me and my heirs for ever, well and honourably, peacefully, freely and quietly, rendering to me and my heirs eleven pounds of silver yearly for all services, aids and demands. Wherefore I and my heirs will guarantee all these things to my burgesses aforesaid, as is set out above, against all men for ever.

Witnessed by: Walter Prior of Kirkham, Hugo de Wildeker, Roger Trussebut, Drogo de Harum, William de Tampton, William de Rosse, rector (?), Robert de Sproxtton, Roger de Wyldeker, Ralph Coke,Malpar, William, clerk, and others.

Notes: The Bodleian manuscript (MS Dodsworth VII, f 160) is Roger Dodsworth's copy of an original charter - destroyed in St. Mary's Tower, York - of about 1189-94. The Latin text is printed in Clay, Early Yorkshire Charters, vol.x, p.155.

In 1285 there were thirteen burgesses paying the eleven pounds silver between them, and the total payment was still the same in 1421 (Cf. History of Helmsley, Rievaulx and District, pp.88-9). The charter was never incorporated later, however, and seems to have been suppressed by the Earls of Rutland when lords of the manor after the Reformation. Soc, sac, etc. were the usual rights of market tolls and jurisdiction, with exemption from servile obligations.

New Contributors

(Owing to the Editor's illness at the time when he should have been collecting information for this section, these notes are incomplete. It is hoped to make good the omissions in the next number.)

PETER SVENDGAARD. Has been with the Ancient Monuments Branch of the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works since 1960. Custodian of Byland Abbey until 1964, when he was transferred to Scarborough Castle in a similar capacity. Son of a Norwegian master mariner, his ancestry may be traced back to 1600, and he is proud of the family connexion with Peter Wessel, the Norwegian naval hero. Interests: history, architecture, photography and marquetry.

HERBERT WILSON. Descendant of the Wilsons of Rievaulx, and father of the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Harold Wilson, O.B.E. Formerly a frequent visitor to Ryedale and friend of John Weatherill, now retired to Cornwall. (See introductory note to 'The Workhouse Master'.)

MARCUS WORSLEY. Eldest son of Sir William Worsley of Hovingham. Born at Hovingham 6 April 1925, and now spends as much time there as his parliamentary duties allow. He has run the Hovingham Estate for some years. M.P. for Keighley 1959-64, and for Chelsea since 1966, he also sits on the Malton R.D.C. and the Malton Bench of Magistrates.

